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ROYAL ASI

THE WEEK.

Monday, 28th April.

A BLIND PLEADER.—Mr. Nana Narayan Bhore, a blind student of the Poona Native Institution, has passed the Bombay Pleaders' Examination. Mr. W. Lee Warner, M.A., C. S., paid his fees and furnished him with an amanuensis. This blind Maratha youth after passing the University Entrance Examination succeeded in securing the sum of Rs. 500 for buying law books from H. H. the Maharaja of Baroda through the recommendation of his Principal, and a monthly scholarship of Rs. 15 from the Kolhapore State through the good-will of Mr. W. Lee Warner, to enable him to attend the Law-Class attached to the Deccan College. He passed the Jurisprudence Examination with credit. His application for the permission to appear for the L. L. B. Examination was supported by the Law Lecturer and Principal, Mr. R. G. Oxenham, but it was not favourably entertained by the Syndicate. He was obliged to study for the Bar privately, and with the help of a good reader and amanuensis and by honest and diligent work he has attained his object. He intends now to apply to the Bombay High Court for a *sanad* to practise in the Poona Court.

THE Lahore paper says :—"The Amir, we learn, is as vigorous a hater of the English newspapers as ever, but he winks at his English employes] in Kabul receiving their dak with regularity. His Highness, it is well-known, dislikes the English or indeed any railroad as much as he dislikes the newspaper, but for all that there is one in full working order at Kabul for the use of the workshops and foundry under Mr. Pyne."

IT would seem as if apprehensions are again entertained about the safety of the Jubilee Bridge at Hooghly. For some days last week big boulders were being thrown into the river round the caissons of the bridge, in order to strengthen their position against the strong current and surging tide of the stream during the rains.

MR. GLADSTONE, speaking at Tring, declared that Mr. Balfour's Irish Land Purchase Bill is in a "fishy" condition. The Irish tenantry after accepting the thirty-three millions of British money will, he thinks, probably repudiate their liability on the ground that the Irish representatives had protested against the scheme. Lord Randolph Churchill has contributed to the *Morning Post* a series of letters making a powerful attack on the measure. He condemns the principle of establishing such a direct relation of debtor and creditor between the State and the Irish tenantry, contending that the moment the State loans become large and the debtors numerous the latter are certain to combine and repudiate the State claims, leaving the State in a helpless condition. The Treasury security upon which the Government relied is, in his opinion, quite illusory. He advocates the extension of local government, giving local bodies wide powers to lend for public works as well as to buy out landlords. He suggests that if the opposition persist in their obstruction to the Bill an appeal to the country must be made next autumn.

IN the course of another week the Boundary Commissioner in Siam will be able to communicate to the Viceroy at Simla the results of his recent exploration. *Apropos* of this the *Pioneer* writes : 'Negotiation it is impossible to call it, since the abstinence of the Siamese has deprived the proceedings of any thing of a reciprocal character, and the footing of Mr. Ney Elias's party has come therefore rather near to resembling one of those expeditions which Russia periodically sends out for the promotion of scientific research. Much geographical information will have been gathered about a piece of country that was hitherto unknown, and our Commissioner will be able to put before the Government the line which he considers the boundary should follow. If it is adopted by the latter, the Siamese will certainly be ready with protests and counter evidence to keep the question open ; and as far as it depends upon a fixed mutual understanding, it may remain unsettled for many years.' The Siamese Government ought *to keep their eyes wide open.*

Tuesday, 29th April.

MR. HENNIKAR HEATON, in reply to a question, has been informed in the House of Commons that the reduced postal charge to India would probably take effect from the 1st of May next.

SIR MORELL MACKENZIE contributes an article on the effect of smoking on the Voice to the current number of the *New Review*. He concludes as follows :—'The effects of over-smoking on the throat, when the habit has not been too long indulged in, can as a rule be easily cured by the simple remedy of discontinuing the practice which engenders them. In considering the evils produced by smoking it should be borne in mind that there are two bad qualities contained in the leaves of tobacco. The one is the poisonous nicotine, and the other is the high temperature of the burning tobacco. The Oriental hookah in which the smoke is cooled by being passed through water before reaching the mouth, is probably the least harmful form of indulgence in tobacco, and the cigarette which is so much in vogue now-a-days is most certainly the worst. It owes this "bad eminence" to the very mildness of its action, people being tempted to smoke all day long, and easily accustoming themselves to inhale the fumes into their lungs and thus saturating their blood with the poison. To sum up, I believe that most people can smoke in moderation without injury, and that to many tobacco acts as a useful nerve sedative. On the other hand, if indulged in to excess the habit is always injurious, and I am sure that a great many persons either cannot see or wilfully shut their eyes to the "scientific frontier" which separates moderation from abuse. It must also be borne in mind that the condition of the throat as well as that of the general health, varies greatly at different times, and that an amount of smoking which at one time would be attended with no bad effect might at another produce serious harm. Every smoker knows that when the stomach is out of order the pipe or cigar loses its charm, but it is not so generally known that at such times the tongue (which to the experienced eye is a mirror of the invisible stomach) and the throat are more vulnerable than usual to tobacco. If nature's warnings on these points are disregarded, as they generally are, the smoker will bring on himself much unnecessary discomfort and even suffering.' It is quite certain that tobacco-smokers will pay no heed to Sir Morell's advice.

THE Northbrook Club which has been reorganised, the split having been healed up, has passed a resolution thanking the Nizam for his gift and electing his Highness an honorary member.

THE proposed labour demonstrations on the 1st of May were prohibited in most of the German States, and many firms threatened their men with dismissal if they took a holiday on that day.

IN the Commons the Chancellor of the Exchequer replying to a question said that Government would take no step regarding the question of the Hall-mark for silver plate imported from India of rupee standard, without consulting the Government of India.

IN the House of Commons on Monday night Mr. Bradlaugh gave notice that he would move that no reform in the silver trade would be complete unless it provided for exports of plate of any quality without compulsory Hall-marking.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* publishes an account of an interview its representative had with Mr. Childers regarding the impression he had formed of his late tour in the East. Mr. Childers warmly praised the energy and intelligence of the officials on the Indian Frontier, and said that the Indian army was in a high state of efficiency. Regarding the Indian Congresses he thought that many measures of reform were feasible, but they must be gradual. British responsibility for the safety of India he said must be unqualified.

COAL has been discovered on the Bengal-Nagpore Railway. The discovery was made by workmen who were digging the foundations of a bridge over the small river Eb in Chota Nagpore. The seam is five feet thick, and only twenty-four feet from the surface, while the quality is reported better than that of Warora coal.

Wednesday, 30th April.

THE Government of the N.-W.P. and Oudh have issued a circular to all Commissioners of Divisions and District Officers, explaining that Commissioners are authorized (subject to divisional budget allotment) to grant rewards for the apprehension of criminals to an amount not exceeding Rs. 500 for each criminal without reference to Government for sanction ; and that all applications for the grant of rewards by Government in excess of that amount should be submitted by District Magistrates through Commissioners. In no case, however, should an application for the grant of a reward be made direct to Government.

IN accordance with a resolution adopted at a recent meeting of mill hands in Bombay, a memorial has been sent to the Mill-Owners' Association, praying for the rescinding of a resolution recently passed that the Association shall close its mills for eight days a month, for three months. The memorialists desire the Association to close its mills every Sunday, throughout the year. There is an alternative proposal to the effect that, if the Association intend to continue granting two holidays in the week for three months certain, it would be better to shut up the mills altogether for that period, enabling the hands to go to their native country to recruit their health.

THREE other Indian delegates—Mr. Norton, of Madras, Mr. R. N. Mudholkar of the Berars, and Mr. M. V. Joshi of Puna—will sail for England by the next Mail to join the Congress campaign.

THERE are already a large number of fanatics abroad in Hyderabad, and some of these have written anonymously to Nawabs Mehdi Ali, Mehdi Hossein, and Syud Hossein, threatening their lives, if they do not give up the ways of the English. The Nawabs know how to treat this anonymous correspondence.

THE third Provincial Conference will be held at Puna from the 5th to the 8th of May. Delegates from Gujrat and the Konkan will probably attend. The subjects for discussion are Forests, Abkari, Police, Education, Succession Duties, the Railway Bill and Income-tax. Over two hundred delegates are expected to be present.

IT has been repeatedly asserted, and the rumour does not seem to be unfounded, that great anxiety prevails at Pekin on account of Russian designs, and highest Military and Naval Officers have been assembled, in order to take necessary precautions. China is said to be well prepared to meet the Russians on her northern frontier. It is said that the Hankow Railway is to be commenced immediately.

THE Madras Committee of the Congress despatched, on the 23rd instand, 23 more petitions to Parliament, regarding the reform of the Indian Legislative Councils. They bore 15,000 signatures. Three from Kurnul were addressed to Mr. Gladstone ; three from Tanjore to Mr. Parnell ; one from Tinnevelly, signed by several Zemindars, to Mr. John Morley ; one from Conjeveram to Sir John Gorst ; and others to various members. The petitions, it is stated, bear only the signatures of persons, able to read and write.

THE Emperor William has, says "Atlas," given great offence in very exalted quarters by offering to create Prince Bismarck Duke of Lauenburg, and the selection of this particular title for the ex-Chancellor is regarded by several Imperial and Royal personages as a deplorable indiscretion. The Dukedom of Lauenburg belongs to the Guelphs, it being one of the most ancient titles of the Duke of Cumberland, who is also Duke of Brunswick, Celle and Lauenburg. The Dukedom of Lauenburg was inherited by George I. from his uncle and father-in-law; and it was one of the titles of English Sovereigns until the death of William IV, when it passed, with the kingdom of Hanover, to the grandfather of the present Duke of Cumberland. The Prince of Wales is reported at Berlin to have been excessively annoyed, and his sentiments are shared by the whole of the Royal Family, including the Empress Frederick.

MR. Edison has revealed a new danger. An electric wire coming into contact with a gas-pipe, he says, might lead to an explosion.

Thursday, 1st May.

BROWNING was at dinner at the house of a friend last summer when he saw the phonograph for the first time. He was greatly interested in it, and started to repeat to it "The ride from Ghent to Aix." When half through he stopped suddenly and exclaimed, "I've forgotten the rest!" The phonograph dutifully repeated all he had said, including the exclamation at the end, and the film upon which the poet's language was impressed is now preserved as a precious relic.

A PARIS journal, believed to be inspired by President Carnot, is publishing articles on the prospect of the establishment of better relations between France and Germany. It says that a durable peace based on a general disarmament is only possible if a perfect understanding is previously arrived at between France and Germany. This is admirably comprehended by the German Emperor, who will not shrink from adopting the means by which alone he can secure the desired end. Referring to these articles, the *Standard's* Paris correspondent says that the basis of a *rapprochement* between the two Governments is the neutralisation of the annexed provinces of Alsace-Lorraine. Since Prince Bismarck retired, the tendency is to make friends of the two Governments. At whose expense the reconciliation is to be effected is difficult to say; simultaneous development of Colonial activity in France and Germany, and the repeated assertions of the French official press that France will never waive her rights over Egypt, point in one direction. In Austria and Italy the removal of Prince Bismarck caused as much dismay as satisfaction in France. Possibly the German Emperor is trying to play off France against Russia. France and Germany are now on better terms than they have been for twenty years.

THE Vienna correspondent of the *Times* says that sufficient attention is not directed in England towards the recent *ukase* of the Czar, making the Trans-Caspian Districts into a new Province under a Governor-General. General Wreskh is not placed at the head of the civil and military administration in the Province, but is commissioned to establish direct international relations with independent Asiatic States, including Afghanistan. General Wreskh is thus placed in the category of diplomatist-generals, subject alike to the Foreign and War Offices. The creation of the Province, now placed under his orders, is regarded in Vienna, as showing a tendency on the part of the Russian Government to remove the centre of gravity of its Asiatic policy from Tashkend to Samarkhand in order to operate more effectively on Afghanistan.

SPEAKING of the indigo disturbances in Magura a local correspondent writes:—"The riot case at Benodepore has induced the Government, on the representation of Mr. Luson, to send soldiers there. The case is *sub judice*, the trial having commenced before Mr. Harris, District Magistrate of Jessore, who has come here specially for the purpose. According to the prosecution, the number of people, that took part in the riot, is about 400. But 33 men were arrested, and they are on their trial. Babu Hridaya Nath Mozumdar, Pleader of the Jessore Bar, has come here to defend the ryots, and the prosecution is being conducted by a Muktear. Several witnesses for the prosecution were examined, and all the accused were enlarged on 50 Rs. bail each. Without saying any thing of the merits of the case, it may be observed that the case, even, if the story of the prosecution were believed, is, after all, a simple affair, and the Government has acted ridiculously in sending a body of troops to keep the peace." The matter looks serious, whatever the prosecution may say.

India writes:—'Sir John Gorst and the *Pioneer* (of Allahabad) are at cross purposes. The former, referring to the Scindia breach of faith, says that the late ruler of Gwalior did unquestionably desire that his son should be under the care of Indian tutors, and for three years the Government of India complied with the dying wish of the Maharajah Therein, so far as the desire is concerned Sir John Gorst spoke by the card. The official documents make this clear beyond all doubt. The *Pioneer*, on the other hand, more officious than official, ready to defend official acts which even the Under-Secretary of State does not attempt to defend, asserts that "the late Maharajah Scindia was anxious that his heir should be educated, on a measure according to English ideas" That is how history is written *ala Pioneer*. It need hardly be said that the exact contrary is the truth.' What has the *Pioneer* to say to this?

Friday, 2nd May.

AN enthusiastic meeting was held at Philibhit in the N. W. P., on Sunday last. Pandit Hardyal presided; and a Resolution, praying for the introduction of the elective principle in the Reform Bill, as laid down in Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill was unanimously adopted. Babu R. P. Bannerji and Mr. Baldeo Pershad Barma addressed the meeting.

THE following particulars regarding operations against dacoits should that property is still far from secure in certain parts of British territory:—"Since Tantia's execution there have been occasional heavy dacoities in Hoshangabad, Nimar, and the Berars. It was well known that Bhondria was at the head of a gang of some 15 or 20 men, some of them the remnants of Tantia's gang, and the rest men organised by himself, supplemented by Banjaras and other local bad characters. On the 22nd April information was given to the Deputy Commissioner of Nimar that Bhondria was in hiding in a certain jungle in the Indore territory, some 45 miles from Khandwa This information was supplied by one of Maharajah Holkar's officials, Captain Mahomed Ashruff, who asked for assistance, A well-armed and carefully-selected party of twenty-two police started that night, and after two marches of 22 miles each came on the dacoit's hiding-place early in the morning of the 23rd. Captain Mahomed Ashruff appears to have made most efficient arrangements for the attack, and on his call to the dacoits to surrender being answered by a volley, he opened fire, with the result that Bhondria and five other dacoits were killed, one was wounded and arrested, and one of the women who accompanied the gang was also caught. A dacoit named Lachman Banjara was seen to go off wounded, and the jungles are now being searched for stragglers or wounded. The men killed were proclaimed offenders, for whose capture heavy rewards have been offered. They have been satisfactorily identified by their relations."

THE Governor-General of the newly-created Russian Transcaspian province has sent invitations to the Ameer of Bokhara and the Khan of Khiva to meet him shortly at Tashkend. An English paper remarks that 'two or three years ago this gathering might have caused anxiety in England, but the precautions taken by the British Government since 1886 to guard the Indian frontier render it a matter of absolute indifference whether two or twenty princes meet to discuss how British India may be attacked.' Professor Vambery, who was formerly somewhat of a pessimist in regard to England's power of defending her Indian frontier, is now among the first to acknowledge that the military works of the last two years have made everything secure. Let us hope that he is right in his opinion.

ORDERS, we understand, have been issued by the Government directing that members of the subordinate judicial and executive services shall not lend money to landholders, nor stand surety for them.

SOME interesting discoveries are reported from Pompeii. There are now placed in the Museum there the plaster casts of the bodies of two men and a woman, taken from impressions made in a stratum of ashes out-side the Stabian Gate. One of the men had fallen on his back, and the other, which is remarkably perfect, on his side, while the woman lies on her face with her arms stretched out. The impression of the tree with foliage and fruit has been examined, and found to be a variety of the *laurus nobilis*, the round berries of which ripen in late autumn; and, as the impression found shows the fruit to have been ripe, it seems to prove that the destruction of Pompeii did not occur in August, as believed by many, but in November.

THE Shah has put his veto on the Russian project to construct a railway connecting Enzelli with Resht.

IN the House of Commons Sir John Gorst in replying to Mr. Bradlaugh said that the earlier reports as to the health of the troops engaged in the Lushai expedition had been exaggerated.

IN the House of Lords on Tuesday evening the South India Railway Purchase Bill was allowed to pass its final stage.

A ROYALIST conspiracy with the object of declaring the Comte De Paris Emperor on May 1st, the day on which the great labour demonstration was to be held, has been discovered in Paris. Many anarchists and malcontents in the army had joined in the preparations for a *coup* which was to have been made on an extensive scale. Large quantities of explosives were procured by the conspirators; but this has been seized by the gendarmerie. The Government is taking urgent steps for the suppression of the conspiracy and the maintenance of order. The garrison of Paris is being largely reinforced.

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Saturday, 3rd May.

THE *Observer* says:—"It is to be regretted that the Government, despite all advice, set its face against the elective principle even in the smallest, the most tentative degree. But whilst undiluted nomination is a bad thing, the unrestricted right to criticise the Budget, and to raise discussion on all matters of public interest as they arise, is unquestionably a good thing. Now that the tongues of private members are untied, it is at least possible that the views of the governed can be brought to the attention of the Governors. That in itself is a gain sufficient in a country like India to consitute a distinct epoch in the people's affairs. It is the first official acknowledgment of the influence, wielded by National-Congresses. Patience, perseverance, and moderation will bring further concessions. Progress may be slow but it will be sure and there may be less danger than ground once gained will ever again be lost. That more might have been done now is true. We say nothing of the general impolicy of persisting in treating as political babies the hundreds of thousands of educated Natives, to whose numbers we are every year adding fresh thousands.

"THE policy of reintroducing the elective principle into the Legislative Councils, though with due precautions against abuse, has the support of four past Indian Secretaries and Viceroys, three of whom advocated it from their places in the Lords. And yet the Government does not disguise its contempt for the suggestion. When the advocates of reform in India learn that their demand has the support of men like Lord Ripon, Lord Dufferin, Lord Granville, Lord Kimberly and Lord Northbrook, they will scarcely let Lord Salisbury's isolated frown turn them from the path. To the ordinary mind the preponderance of testimony having regard to the tried governing capacity of the men seems irresistible and the refusal to move forward can only be regarded as another instance of how utterly even a sagacious mind like Lord Salisbury's can be led astray by prejudice of class and race. No one can doubt that a step approved by four former rulers of the country having probably a deeper knowledge of it than any other four men in either House of Parliament, will have to be taken. Continued delay can have no other result than to develop grievances. And what did Lord Salisbury mean by attempting comparisons between the rotten *regime* of Pashas in Egypt and Turkey and British administration in India?" The comparisons instituted by Lord Salisbury clearly show that His Lordship's knowledge of the political wants of the people of this country is extremely limited.

PHOTOGRAPHY promises to be in the future a still more helpful hand-maiden to the science of the weather than it has even proved to be in the past. The determination of the temperature of the atmosphere at different heights is a most important factor in meteorological investigations, but, as may readily be imagined, is an exceedingly difficult problem to work out. Herr Siegsfeld, a well-known German meteorologist, has, however, suggested a method by which the desired results may yet be attained when the apparatus which he has constructed and perfected for the purpose shall have been thoroughly tested and perfected. Siegsfeld proposes sending up at night small balloons, each containing a thermometer, with an accompanying appliance, that will, when acted on electrically, give a flash of light. The light flash will affect photographically a so-called photo-theodolite, and in this way a photograph of the thermometer, with the temperature indicated at the time, will be obtained. The height above sea level at the moment the light signal is given will be recorded by a simple mechanical method.

AT a meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation a resolution was passed placing on record their high appreciation of the great and valuable services rendered to the City of Bombay by Mr. Ollivant, Commissioner, who is leaving to take up the post of Political Agent in Kattywar. His administration had been the longest, most eventful, and most memorable of those of all past Commissioners.

No award has as yet been made for the Sanitary Primer or text-book on Domestic Economy and Sanitary Science for which the Government of India has offered a reward of Rs. 1,000.

M. DESGODINS has been a good deal lionised in Paris. His manuscript dictionary of the Tibetan language is looked upon as a triumph for the Propaganda University, of which the author was a promising student.

THE results of the Allahabad University Examination have been published: 87 candidates have passed the intermediate examination in Arts; 86 in subjects in which they had failed in 1889; 95 in the Entrance Examination, 1st division; 293 in the in the second division, and 275 in the 3rd division.

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The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1890.

MR. CAINE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

WHEN the Government of India wrote their gigantic Despatch of the 4th February last to the Secretary of State, they thought that they had effectually crushed Mr. Caine and other critics of their excise administration. We noticed the weak points in the Supreme Government's defence of its Abkari policy at the time of the publication of the despatch, and Mr. Caine has now shown some of them very clearly. It will be remembered that the Government of India, after alluding to the serious difficulties which have to be met in establishing a system of excise in this country, discussed in detail Mr. Caine's statements and characterised them as inaccurate and misleading. In the debate on Mr. Samuel Smith's motion in the House of Commons last year Mr. Caine quoted the authority of an official who is intimately acquainted with the excise administration of Bombay in connection with the question of illicit distillation. The name of this official is Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas, and Mr. Caine thus spoke of the information furnished by him:—"While I was in Bombay I had a visit from Lallubhai Gordhandas, General Assistant in the Abkari Department. I had a long conversation with that gentleman. I made careful notes of it and read them over to him with some care, and he admitted that they accurately represented what he said." Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas's statements to Mr. Caine were:—"Throughout the Presidency there is no illicit distillation whatever for sale. There may be a little prevalent where there are many toddy or mowha trees, for private consumption only. We have got Mr. Pritchard's system well in hand, and illicit distillation is now reduced to a minimum." The Government of India in their despatch to the Secretary of State wrote:—"Mr. Caine misunderstood what Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas said. Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas denies having used the words attributed to him by Mr. Caine regarding illicit distillation; the words he did use bear a very different meaning. Mr. Caine's memory has apparently also deceived him in leading him to say that he showed the notes of the conversation to Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas, and the latter admitted that the notes accurately represented what he had said. Mr. Lallubhai explicitly contradicts these assertions." Mr. Caine thus replies:—"The plain facts of this interview are as follows:—'Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas called upon me at my hotel, and expressed a desire for an interview. * * * I took it granted, he came to see me in consequence of my having called on Mr. Pritchard, the Commissioner of Excise, who was from home, I think in Sind. At the outset of our interview I told Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas that I should consider myself free to use the information he gave me in any way I thought fit, and I made notes from time to time. At the close of the interview I read my notes over to him, and he suggested one or two trivial alterations. I read them a second time, and he agreed with their general accuracy. I then proposed that I should write them carefully out, and post them to him in duplicate, he returning one copy, altered as he thought fit, and signed by himself. This he flatly refused to do. He was nervous all through the conversation, and I doubt if his memory of what took place is very accurate." We have no other witness to depose to what actually passed in the interview between Mr. Caine and Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas. We have only the latter's statement of what occurred in the conversation against the former's. This being the case, it is extremely difficult to determine whether we should believe Mr. Caine or Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas. We are, however, inclined to think that in this matter the testimony of Mr. Caine is entitled to greater credit than that of Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas. It seems to us that the latter made a mistake in seeing Mr. Caine at all. He is employed in the Excise Department in Bombay and he knew well that Mr. Caine was engaged in collecting evidence as to the real working of the Abkari system in this country. It is most probable that in his conversation with Mr. Caine, Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas indirectly gave him his *true opinion* on the question of illicit distillation. He afterwards discovered that he had committed a grave mistake for which he would be seriously taken to task by his official superiors. When Mr. Gordhundas realised his situation fully, he flately refused to comply with Mr. Caine's request that he should sign his (Mr. Caine's) notes of the conversation. Mr. Lallubhai Gordhandas, of course, felt that if he did so, he would not be able to back out and contradict Mr. Caine when he would be called upon for explanation of his conduct by the Head of his Department. Considering Mr. Gordhandas's position as a Government servant, we cannot, in a matter of this kind, accept his account of what passed at the interview against Mr. Caine's statement. It is only natural that the Government should prefer Mr. Gordhandas's memory to that of Mr. Caine; but the impartial public cannot be expected to do the same.

In his speech during the debate on Mr. Samuel Smith's motion Mr. Caine made a charge against Mr. Clay, the Collector of Backergunge, who, he said, had ordered a zemindar to give against his wishes a site for a liquor-shop at a religious fair held annually in that district. The Government of India thus state the true facts of the case:—"For more than 20 years a shop for the sale of liquor had been each year opened at the fair, and the proprietors had always willingly granted a site for the shop. In November 1888 the right to open the shop was sold in ordinary course. When the purchaser went to open the shop a site was refused him and he reported this to the Deputy Collector. This was the first information the Excise authorities had of the change of view of the proprietors. As the reason of the change was not known a courteous letter was written on the 19th November by the Deputy Collector to the proprietors. * * * When that letter was written by the Deputy Collector, the Collector had no knowledge of the fact that an objection had been raised as to the opening of the shop. * * * The next day the proprietor wrote to the Collector that in order to check drunkenness he was not inclined to allow a liquor-shop to be opened at the fair. The Collector inquired why objection was raised then for the first time, as there had been none in former years. The proprietor on the 21st November wrote explaining his reasons at length. On receipt of his letter the Collector gave instructions that the shop should not be opened; and the shop was not opened. This incident is a striking illustration of the disadvantage at which the Government of India is placed when its policy is discussed in England." It must be admitted that in this instance Mr. Caine was misled by his informant, and he acknowledges it frankly. He observes:—"No one is more anxious than I am that this disadvantage should be removed. The only method by which this is possible is by the admission of the natives of India to representation in the Legislative Councils of their own country, where policy could be discussed by those most interested in it, where the Government could be questioned, and where reforming legislation could be proposed by the reformers themselves. Until we have the common sense to do this, natives of India have no other course open to them for the redressing of their grievances than to appeal to the few members of the House of Commons who know a little of India, and care for her people to get them the justice they fail to get from those nominees of Governors who alone have the power to alter and amend legislation and administration." This must be the opinion of every right-minded Englishman, who is anxious to see the grievances of the Indian people redressed.

Mr. Caine takes up an unassailable position when he says that the main question to be determined is not the accuracy or inaccuracy of particular statements made by him or other critics of the Excise administration of the Government of India, but whether or not the consumption of ardent spirits in this country is increasing. The Government has always contended that it is not; but Mr. Caine has conclusively established the increase. He rightly holds that the excise administration of the Madras Presidency is the best of a bad lot; but even in the Southern Presidency the consumption of ardent spirits is steadily on the increase. The Madras report shows the quantity of proof spirits manufactured in districts whose statistics are trustworthy has risen from 7,99,000 gallons in 1882-3 to 10,95,000 gallons in 1888-9 showing an increase for the seven years of 295,000 gallons. The returns taken from these figures are imperfect. If complete returns were available a greater increase would be shown. Confining his remarks to districts about which there can be no controversy, Mr. Caine shows that in Madras, which is the best administered province in India, the consumption of ardent spirits is increasing at the rate of 28½ per cent in four years. As regards Bombay, Mr. T. D. Mackenzie, Acting Commissioner of Excise, gives some figures with a view to disprove Mr. Caine's statement, that the consumption of licit liquor in the Western Presidency has increased 40 per cent. Mr. Caine admits the incorrectness of his statement, but he has made it clear that his error arose from the incapacity of Mr. Mackenzie's Department to furnish proper return. But the figures given by Mr. Mackenzie himself clearly establish an increased consumption of 22 per cent. in three years. Well might Mr. Caine say that even this admitted rate of increase is calculated to cause the gravest alarm to every one who cares for the welfare of the Indian people.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A EUROPEAN TUTOR FOR YOUNG SCINDIA.

IN his place in the House of Commons Mr. Bradlaugh recently put a question to the representative of the India Office regarding the appointment of a European tutor for the education of the young Maharaja Scindia, and asked whether the Under-Secretary of State would lay upon the table the complete text of the letter which the late Maharaja addressed the Governor-General's Agent on this subject and the reply thereto. Sir John Gorst, in replying to Mr. Bradlaugh's questions, stated as follows: "The character of the request of the late Maharaja Scindia is not correctly described in the question, but it was undoubtedly his wish in June 1886 that his son, then under 10 years of age should be under Native and not European tutors. This wish was for three years complied with, and the young Maharaja was left during that time under the charge of Native tutors only. He is now 13½ years of age, and in the judgment of the Government of India his own interests and those of his people require that, while neither his religion nor caste will in any way be interfered with he shall be under the charge of a British Officer. The Secretary of State does not think it in the interest of the public service to lay on the table either the letter or the reply."

It will thus be seen that Lord Cross, in the plenitude of his wisdom, refused to produce the late Maharaja Scindia's letter on the subject of the education of his son and the reply thereto, on the stereotyped ground that their production would be detrimental to the interests of the public service. But these important papers have been given to the world by a correspondent of the *Statesman*. It appears that on the 30th May, 1886, or just three weeks before his death the late Maharaja addressed Sir Lepel Griffin, the then Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, about the future management and administration of his State. In this document he expressed his wishes about the education of his son. He wrote:—"In future, if the young Maharaja be kept under the instruction of a European tutor he is sure to leave our old manners and customs and even neglect the religious duties, for the result of such instruction is obvious in Dholepore, Jowrah and Baroda. I have therefore, appointed two able Native teachers, one Pandit Prankissen and the other Pandit Anandi Lal, to teach him. The Resident may come now and then to examine and see what his said teachers have taught him. *This is my heartfelt wish.* I hope you will accept

it, otherwise this Mahratta will assume an extraordinary shape, spoiling its original form. Whatever I mentioned above is my only request to you and to His Excellency the Viceroy." Now, nothing could be more clear or emphatic than this expression of the late Maharaja's wishes regarding the education of his son and heir. The version of His Highness's letter which Sir John Gorst, in replying to Mr. Bradlaugh's question, gave to the House of Commons was quite disingenuous and misleading. There can be no doubt whatever that the late Maharaja was most anxious that his son should never be placed under European tutors and denationalised as 'Dholepore, Jowrah and Baroda' have been. Sir John Gorst wanted the House of Commons to believe that the arrangement proposed by the late Maharaja Scindia was to continue for a short period only. No sensible person who carefully goes through His Highness's letter will take this view of the case. Sir Lepel Griffin communicated the contents of that letter to Lord Dufferin and the late Viceroy sent the following telegraphic message to His Highness in reply:—"The Agent to the Governor-General has conveyed to me the contents of your Highness's letter word by word, and I extremely regret learning of your Highness's severe illness. I earnestly hope that your Highness will recover and if otherwise *let your Highness be assured that every effort will be done to meet your Highness's last wishes.*" This message was communicated to the late Maharaja in his dying moments by Colonel Bannerman, then Resident at Gwalior. Although His Highness was then unable to speak, he showed by signs that he understood what the Resident said, and he desired Colonel Bannerman "to explain his most grateful acknowledgments to His Excellency for thus condescending to meet his wishes and left his son and family to the care of His Excellency." As the correspondent of the *Statesman* pertinently observes, no compact between the Paramount Power and a feudatory chief could be more binding than the late Viceroy's unqualified and unconditional acceptance of the last wishes of the dying Maharaja.

But it will scarcely be believed, but nevertheless it is perfectly true, that scarcely had four months elapsed since the late Maharaja's death when Sir Lepel Griffin commenced to overthrow the arrangements which had been made by his Highness for the education of his son and heir. The two teachers who had been engaged by the late Maharaja were removed, and the young prince was placed under the charge of two of Sir Lepel's proteges—Pandit Dharum Narayan, retired Mirmunshi in the Central India Agency and one Dr. Croft. The late Sir Ganpat Rao Khudkey who knew very well that he was absolutely at Sir Lepel Griffin's mercy could not but assent to the new arrangement, against which he could not protest if he wished to retain his appointment. On the 10th June last Major Barr, the new Resident, who had succeeded Colonel Bannerman, informed the Council of Agency that the Government of India having considered the best method of continuing the education and training of His Highness the Maharaja Scindia had arrived at the conclusion "that the time has now arrived for confiding the further direction of his studies to a European tutor, and after full consideration they have finally selected for this important duty Mr. J. W. D. Johnston, Principal of the Raj Kumar College of Indore." Major Barr further told the Council that they must afford every assistance to Mr. Johnston in the discharge of his duties. The Council mildly protested its regret that the Government of India should have thought fit to entrust the future educationing of the young Maharaja to a European tutor without consulting the Queen-Regent, under whose care and guardianship his Highness had been placed. The Council also reminded the Government of the last wishes of the late Maharaja in respect to the education of his son. But as might have been expected, no heed was given to the Council's protest. We do not purpose to discuss here the large question whether it is or is not desirable to entrust the education and training of young chiefs to European tutors. In this particular case Lord Dufferin gave positive assurances to the late Maharaja that his wishes in regard to the education of his son and heir would be met. But the solemn pledge of the late Viceroy has been broken by his successor. After this, it is needless to say that no feudatory chief will place any reliance on the plighted word of Her Majesty's representative in this country.

THE KOL AGITATION.

We have received a copy of a pamphlet entitled "Papers relating to Chota Nagpore Agrarian Disputes." The history of the Kol agitation is given in full in these papers. They show that the disputes between landlords and tenants are not of recent origin. They are chronic and have continued for years. The land tenures in Chota Nagpore are of such a nature that constant collisions between landlords and tenants are inevitable. The days of the old patriarchal system are numbered, and the spirit of the times compels the tenants to assert their alleged rights. German missionaries, as we showed in our last, have taught the ryots that the demands of the landlords could be resisted with impunity. In the papers before us, passages questioning the propriety of the conduct of individual missionaries have been struck out, as the Lieutenant Governor has not accepted them as correct, or as matters which should be published. Had these passages not been struck out, they would have given us some idea of the part which the German missionaries have played in the matter. It is evident that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor is anxious to deal with the action of the missionaries as delicately as possible. There is no doubt that the missionaries have been inciting the simple Kols to resist the lawful authority, but the Lieutenant Governor is of opinion that to bring in the missionary element would be complicating matters. Writing to the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpore Division he says:—

"The religious movement among the Kols in the direction of Christianity has been at once a consequence and a cause of their disputes with their landlords. It was noticed in 1859, and even at an earlier date, that many Kols became Christians under the impression that they would thereby strengthen their position as against the landowners. In 1874 it was definitely reported that the Christian Bhuinhars claimed that the adoption of Christianity had exempted them from all labour services, and on this ground they ceased to work for their landlords. The present movement has been accompanied by the conversion of some forty thousand persons to the Roman Catholic religion, and this has doubtless had its effect in disturbing their relations with their Hindu landowners. That the missionaries should take an active interest in the temporal welfare of their congregations is natural, and is not a subject for unfavourable comment; but in dealing with an excitable race like the Kols, the greatest caution is necessary to avoid encouraging a spirit of lawlessness in the pursuit of such temporal objects, and though the Lieutenant-Governor does not doubt that the missionaries themselves have always been anxious to exercise this wise caution, yet there is certainly evidence that the subordinate agents, acting in their name, have given ground for strong complaint. You have not failed to make it distinctly understood that the questions at issue between zemindars and ryots relate to their respective interest in property, and can in no way be affected by the religion of either party, a matter which, in this connexion, is quite irrelevant."

The origin of the agitation, as we have said before, must be looked for in the long standing agrarian disputes between the Kols and their landlords. The Kols claim to be the first settlers in Chota Nagpore, and their traditions point to the time when, under a system of village communes, they lived in a state of primitive contentment and simplicity, without being subject to any raja or landlord of any description, each village being presided over by a headman or Munda, and a collection of twelve villages, called a *parha*, presided over by a *Manki*, who was chosen from among the Mundas. Every person was in a manner proprietor of the soil which he cultivated. Their further history may be traced through the following stages—their submission voluntarily or by conquest to the Nagbansi family, the Rajas of Chota Nogpore; their subsequent reduction by the ruling power to a state of serfdom; their revolt and final subjugation, with loss of lands and diminution of rights by means of the introduction of foreigners who were retained in the Rajahs' employ, and received jagirs or grants of land in return for services rendered; the further introduction of Brahmins, and still later of a different or lower class of persons—horse-dealers, shawl and brocade merchants, and other adventurers, to whose influence the Nagbansi chiefs, owing to pecuniary difficulties, became subservient, and to whom they granted farms of lands and even whole villages in return for services or cash. The oppressions of these middlemen gradually broke down the authority in many parts of the country of the village chiefs, and ended in their disestablishment, and eventually drove the Kols into a revolt in 1831, which was accompanied by a great disturbance of peasant proprietary tenures. When matters quieted down, the Kols, who had been driven away in consequence of the insurrection, began to return and lay claims to lands, and a contest arose between them and the farmers, which continued intermittently until the appointment of the Bhuinhari Commissioners and the passing of the Chota Nagpore Tenures Act, II (B. C.) of 1869. The disputes which the Act was intended to settle were attributable to encroachments on the part of the landlord as well as the tenant to Bhuinhari claims persisted in by the tenants and denied by landlords, and to the exaction from the tenants of services beyond those which they are bound to render according to custom. All these things are matters of history which can be traced out in the official records."

In examining the causes which have led to the disputes, the first place is to be given, says the Lieutenant Governor, to the peculiar system of *beth-begari* or labour rents, by which the tenant is bound to work for his landlord without receiving wages. The *rakumat*, or cesses, levied from ryots form the second cause of dispute. Some *rakumat* take the form of demands for animals to sacrifice at Hindu festivals, and objection has been taken to such gifts being made by Christians. The third cause is the claim put forward by the Kols to the proprietary right of the soil. An agitation has been set on foot under the instigation of the missionaries, to urge this absurd demand.

The question now is whether the landlords should have their well-established rights, or whether their tenants should be allowed to assert their independence and withhold their rents and services from the land-owners. We do not for a moment wish that justice should be denied to any party. But we are bound to say that considering the origin of the agitation, it is incumbent on Government to protect the land-owners against their tenants. If every 'absurd demand' that the tenant is incited to make is to be inquired into, and lengthy proceedings are to be held in determining its character, no settlement is possible to be made which would restore peace and harmony to the disturbed districts. We can well understand the difficulty of the Bengal Government in dealing effectually with the Missionary interference in the matter. But this is a case where vigorous action is necessary to avoid unpleasant results. The Missionaries must be told at once in the strongest language, that their interference is dangerous to public peace and safety and must be withdrawn; and if necessary they must be compelled to remove their sphere of action to another part of the country, where their operations will not be calculated to produce such baneful results. There has been resistance to the authorities, and encroachments on private rights in assertion of pretended titles. A spirit of antagonism between land-lord and tenant has been encouraged which has entirely destroyed the amity which should subsist between classes whose interests are inseparably bound up. Matters have gone so far that apprehensions have been expressed that there may at any time be a breach of the peace on a large scale. These are serious charges against the Missionaries. The Lieutenant-Governor has made careful enquiries on the spot, and any one who chooses to read between the lines can at once

perceive that he is satisfied that the Missionaries have caused all this mischief.

If that be so, the hesitation to take prompt steps to root out the evil is unjustifiable. The Missionaries should at once be sent away from the Province, and the rebellious Kols be severely punished for resistance to lawful authority. There is not the slightest doubt that energetic action is urgently necessary to fulfil the obligations of Government. If exaction of free labour is unlawful, put it down by all means; but where local custom recognises free service, the ryots must be compelled to render it. The tendency to ignore the rights of landlords is so general, the combinations of ryots against the proprietors of land are becoming so frequent, and the hesitation of Government officials to effectually interfere in agrarian disputes is so pronounced, that unless some vigorous measures are immediately adopted to remedy the evils so loudly complained of, there is sure to be serious breach of the peace not only in Chota Nagpore, but all over the Province. It is useless to disguise the fact that the relations between the landlords and the tenants are extremely strained, and it is not difficult to imagine what the results will be. Unless timely action is taken the consequences will be ruinous not only to landlords and tenants but to the people generally. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that a sovereign remedy in agrarian disputes is afforded by the Tenancy Act and he is about to extend the Act to Chota Nagpore. The Tenancy Act, he says, 'was framed with the utmost care, for the assistance of the Zemindar in realising just demands and for the protection of the ryots from exaction.' That this should be the opinion of one who gave the Act its present shape and form is not surprising. But we hope His Honor will pause before the Act is inflicted on the Kols. It will, instead of giving any relief, increase hundred-fold the present troubles of Chota Nagpore.

LORD CROSS'S BILL.

MEETINGS have been held all over the Province to protest against Lord Cross's Bill. It has been freely said that meetings were organized by 'wire-pullers', and that, therefore, they have no political value. We admit at once that the meetings were 'organized'; but how does that fact detract from their values? What important meetings have ever been held without being organized? Some one must explain the objects for which meetings are called, and some one must make arrangements for holding them. People are invited to express their opinions on a particular measure, and here ends the vocation of the 'wire-pullers'. Blind moles and pointed caps may sneer at these meetings, but we are surprised that sensible men should try to under-value their importance. The mere fact of thousands over thousands attending these meetings, and expressing sympathy with their objects, shows that those who understand the true meaning of the provisions of Lord Cross's Bill are not satisfied that these provisions would meet public requirements. There is a general consensus of opinion that the Legislative Councils should be reformed. Some think that this reform may be brought about by giving a few more 'nominated' members to the Councils; while others think that there should be 'elected' members in the Councils. There are people also—and their opinions are entitled to the highest respect—who maintain that election, *pure and simple*, is not suited to the present conditions of the country. They admit at the same time, that nomination, as it is made at present, does not satisfy public wants. The safe-guards provided by Lord Northbrook in Lord Cross's Bill, may to some extent remove the defects of the present system, but they are not calculated to meet the wants of the people. What is wanted is that representative men, who will not be influenced by smiles and frowns of men in authority, should be induced to come to the Councils. There is very little prospect of securing this object by Lord Cross's Bill, even with the amendment of Lord Northbrook. It is feared that the addition of the members proposed will intensify the evil, instead of affording relief. This moderate party of reform is of opinion that there is a medium course between nomination and election which ought to be followed. They believe that in the present circumstances of the country, the system of nomination ought to be combined with election. What they propose is that after recognising certain constituencies, rules should be so framed that these constituencies may be enabled to send up to Government certain approved names from which Government may make their own selection. The remedy proposed is partial, it is true, but still it gives a *modified* form of election, which, in the absence of more extended privileges, may to some extent satisfy the public demand. Lord Northbrook's amendment might have aimed at some such object. But it gives too much discretion to the Viceroy and the Provincial Governors, and the consequence will very likely be that except a few more additional members, the nomination system will move in its old groove. and will not make any perceptible difference in the representation of the people in the Councils. It will be seen from what we have said above that all parties,—those who are for nomination only, those who are for election, pure and simple, and those who wish to combine nomination with election—are agreed that there ought to be a change; and the last two parties, the extreme party and the moderate party, are of opinion that Lord Cross's Bill does not secure to us the privileges we want. That being the case, we should object to Lord Cross's Bill, and to express our objections the meetings we have noticed above were held all over the Province. We are bound to say that there is a well-founded dread among men of wealth and culture and position that if the principle of election, which is so vociferously advocated, be recognized, political power will be placed in the hands of empty talkers who have no stake in the country. Tall talk will carry the day, and men of real worth will be cast into the shade. This is an apprehension which has been generally felt, and ought to be allowed its due weight in determining the limitations of the elective principle. What we are most concerned at at present is that as a radical change is universally felt to be necessary, let it be made in such way that not only the interests of the majority, but those of the minority be well-guarded

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

SIR STEUART BAYLEY will leave Calcutta on Tuesday, the 13th instant. After making a short tour to Buxa *via* Kuch Behar, and thence through Phalakotta to Jalpaiguri, His Honor will proceed by road to Darjiling, where it is expected that he will arrive on the 22nd instant.

THE Viceroy's usual State-dinner will be given at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on the 24th instant, the *levee* being held the same evening. The Birthday Ball will be held on the 29th instant.

WE deeply regret to record the death of the Hon'ble Colman Macaulay, Secretary to Government of Bengal, who returned from England only on Friday last to officiate for Sir John Edgar as Chief Secretary. He felt unwell at noon and expired in the evening. He did not seem to be in very bad health on his arrival, but he was somewhat prostrated with the fatigue of his journey. His medical attendants, however, did not consider that he was in any danger. The sad event will all the more be widely lamented for its unexpectedness. Mr. Macaulay discharged the duties entrusted to him with conspicuous ability, and gave entire satisfaction to the Government he so faithfully served. His death is deeply mourned by all who knew him.

THE indigo difficulty in Jessore is increasing. One Barodakanta Sircar, of Benodepur, telegraphed to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor:—"Yesterday nearly hundred police and factory lattails, breaking open the doors of my pukka house, looted it. Many houses were looted. They beat whomsoever they found. Almost the whole village is deserted. No Joint or Deputy Magistrate is in charge of the Sub-Division." His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, we understand, has already made an investigation into the disputes. We do not know what decision His Honor has arrived at. But we feel sure that justice will be done to the aggrieved party.

BABU Sheo Bux Bogla again urged upon the British Indian Association this year the necessity of making a representation to Government pointing out the oppressive character of the Income tax, and praying for its repeal. The Managing Committee of the Association could not take up the question last year for obvious reasons. With a substantial surplus this year, the plea of financial necessity cannot be sustained and a strong representation, Babu Sheo Bux argued, should be made, in the interests of thousands of our countrymen, who keenly feel the severity of the tax. Its oppressiveness is an undisputed fact, its unsuitability to the economic conditions of the country is beyond a question, its odiousness is a matter of notoriety;—its existence, therefore, in the absence of any financial necessity is utterly unjustifiable. This is the line of argument which Babu Sheo Bux has taken, and we must say that the sympathies of his countrymen are with him. We do not know what action the Committee of the Association will take in the matter, but it mustbe admitted that Mr. Bogla has made out a strong case.

WE have received the first two numbers of the second volume of the *Catechist*, a fortnightly educational journal, conducted for the benefit of the Entrance students. It contains explanatory notes, model questions, exercises, solutions and instructive hints on the different subjects prescribed for the examination. From what we have seen in these two issues we may safely recommend the journal to the Entrance students for whom it is intended.

SECURITY of life and property justly entitles the British Government to the lasting gratitude of our countrymen. It is this security, more than anything else, which has enabled the Government to maintain firm hold on the country. Any apathy that may be shown to it by British administrators is sure to lead to incalculable mischief. The Dum Dum murder still remains unavenged, and nothing is done apparently to bring the murderer to justice. O'Hara has been let off on technical grounds, and his companions have not been touched. It is one of these three men who committed the murder, and yet British justice has not been able to touch any of them. The whole country cries for justice, and it must be granted. Why should not all the three men be put on their trial? Weighty technical objections may be urged in taking such a course, we know; but when there is no other course left to find out the murderer, these objections must for once be set aside to obtain justice. We say again we want justice, and it must be granted to us.

CERTAIN rules for inspection of places of accommodation for emigrants in mafussil have been supplemented by others regulating the conditions under which the journey of the emigrants by rail shall be made. These rules may be classified under two heads: (1) Supplementary or additional rules. (2) Rules to be substituted for the existing Rules 64, 65 and 69 under the Emigration Act I of 1882. The additional Rules provide that the despatch of emigrants should be previously arranged, and that special care should be taken to prevent "overcrowding." If these coolies are sent on their journey before 9 A. M., a dry meal, consisting of bread and sugar, should be given them. If sent after the fixed hour aforesaid they should be provided with cooked meal. Cholera cases should be removed promptly at the expense of the railway.

WE learn that Mr. James W. Furrell has taken up the editorial charge of the *Calcutta Review*. Mr

Furrell is an able and experienced writer, and we hope the Review will prosper in his hands.

THE Viceregal Legislative Council, it is understood, is not likely to commence sitting at Simla for another month to come. It is possible that the Bankruptcy Bill of 1886, will be revived.

A PAINFUL case has lately been disposed of at the Ranchi Deputy Magistrate's Court. Amritalal Dey, of 69 Aheritolah Street, Calcutta, was charged with attempting to cheat the Maharaja of Chota Nagpore, and on conviction was sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment. It was brought out in course of trial that the accused recently addressed a letter to the Maharaja, requesting him to contribute towards an institution named "the Lansdowne Royal Scientific College." The Maharaja's suspicions were accidently aroused, and on enquiry he came to learn that there was no such College in existence. Proceedings were at once instituted, and on Amritalal's house and business place, at No. 71 Bentinck Street, being searched documents were found which not only established the present case, but clearly showed that the man had for years past been regularly cheating the credulous Mufassil people by means of several bogus firms bearing different European names. It also transpired that about the year 1874 he issued a false prospectus promising to publish a treatise on the Indian nobility and collected subscriptions from the native chiefs. The book of course was never published. It was also brought to light that among his numerous swindling devices, Amritalal had a Indian Chiefs' and Zemindars' Association, which also brought him handsome subscriptions.

IT is a relief to know that Leper legislation has been shelved for the present at any rate. The Local Governments have now reported on the draft Bill, but it has been decided not to move in the matter until the 'home' medical authorities have given a definite opinion as to whether the disease is contagious or not. The British Indian Association is to be congratulated on the success of the representation it made on the subject. As Raja Rajendralála Mitra pointed out at the last annual meeting of the Association, the disease is neither contagious nor infectious. Had it been either the one or the other, thousands of Hindu wives, who so devotedly attend upon their leper husbands, would have fallen victims to it. But no authentic case can be pointed to in which a wife has taken the contagion from her husband. The fact is telling, and conclusively shows that it is not propagated by contact. Call it 'loathsome,' or call it by any other name which would express its offensiveness, but it cannot be pronounced as contagious. And how can people be deprived of their personal liberty, if it is not contagious? This is the ground which the British Indian Association took up, and it is simply unassailable.

ON Monday last a meeting of Gladstonian Liberals was held at Swansea, under the presidency of the Mayor, which was addressed by Messrs. Surendra Nath Banerjee and Dadabhai Naoroji. The meeting passed a resolution of sympathy with the efforts of the Indian Congress, and authorized the Mayor to address a petition to Parliament asking that the elective principle in India be recognised. A meeting was also held at Cardiff at which resolutions were passed similar to those passed at Swansea. This is good news, and we rejoice at it.

THE question of unifying the system of weights and measures in India has not yet been solved. We understand that it has come to the fore again. The Government of India has asked for opinions as to the feasibility of adopting the railway system of weights and measures as the legal standard for Bengal. A further proposal is made to adopt the English system of weights and measures as the legal standard for the whole of India. No decision should be arrived at till all the bearings of the question are completely examined.

THE work of issuing moral text books for Indian Schools, in accordance with the educational reform scheme, has, it is understood, been entrusted to the hands of the local Governments and Administrations. Will the Local Governments issue them? If they do, the text-books will not be of much use in the schools.

ANOTHER case of an extensive fraud committed on the Bank of Bengal has come to light. Elias Solomon, of Mr. Gubboy's office, is reported to have perpetrated a clever swindle on the Bank. The amount mentioned is about eleven lakhs of rupees. Solomon had been in the habit of procuring advances on shipments of opium, and it is alleged that he had lately purchased 25 chests and by changing the figures to 250, he obtained an advance of the above sum. He was detected on Monday last late in the afternoon, and consequently a warrant not having been obtained he was traced to his house and a watch was kept at the gate all night. The swindler somehow managed to escape from the house and elude the vigilance of the Police. An arrest was, however, made by Inspector Jacob and the prisoner was taken to the Police Court on Friday last. The prisoner's counsel applied that he might be released on bail, to which objection was taken. The accused will be placed before the Chief Presidency Magistrate to-day for the purpose of fixing a date for the hearing of the case. The case has created a sensation among the Jews of the city.

IN their Budget estimates for 1890-91 which have justly been published, the Calcutta Port Commissioners make a provision for an Assistant Superintendent in the Traffic Department on Rs. 800 a month. The Bengal Government resolution, however, reviewing the Budget remarks:—"If, as the Lieutenant-Governor understands, the services of an officer to fill this appointment have not actually been engaged, His Honor desires that no steps may be taken to engage him for the present. In view of the very heavy additional charges that are about to fall on the revenues of the Trust the Lieutenant-Governor wishes the Commissioners to consider whether the work can not be conducted without the assistance of this highly paid officer." We quite agree with His Honor that this is no time to engage an officer on high pay.

Mr. Belchambers, the Deputy Registrar of the Appellate Side, High Court, retires next month. Mr. W. J. Joyce, the Assistant Registrar of the Court, who is officiating as Private Secretary to the Chief Justice, succeeds Mr. Belchambers, and Mr. J. Lewis,, who is on deputation as Assistant Registrar, is confirmed in his appointment.

IT is said that in future officers, desirous of entering the Indian Service, will have to make their choice, while at Sandhurst, and will receive their Indian Commission direct from that College, though they will still be attached to British Regiments for a year after arriving in India. This new arrangement will not come into force till 1892.

THE *Statesman* has published a special report of Mr. MacDonald's speech on the necessity of revising the University Charter. If what the gentleman said be all what can be said on the subject we would do well to let it alone. The superfluous L in LL.D., is too insignificant to do any injury to the back of the University. When Lord Canning took exception to the word "matriculation," as smelling too much of the academy, it is a pity that he did not revise the whole terminology of the institution. It is now-a-days and in India a gross solecism to talk of men who are fathers of several children as "Bachelors," or to designate married young ladies by the same term. Some persons feel the incongruousness of the Latin titles, but when they set about them, they begin and end by nibbling. The double L in LL.D., is the Latin for Law in the plural number, and we have its counterpart in *pp.* and *ff.*, which are in every day use. It has nothing gross about it; and in fact it occurs nowhere in the University Charter or in the Proceedings of the Senate, nor it has been ordained by any resolution of the Senate. The term used in the Act of the University is "Doctor in Law," and the usual abbreviation of it given in the leading English Dictionaries is LL.D., and for centuries the highest academic authority, the University of Oxford, has used it as the most appropriate. It has thereby derived a technical meaning quite independent of its radical derivation, and it would be highly improper to tamper with it on theoretic arguments. It would be nearly as bad as the outrageous "imperence," of calling Mr. MacDonald, the son of Donald or Donaldson, though meaning identically the same thing. We all know the trouble portrayed by the dramatist in changing Mr. Hog's flesh into Bacon, and as trade-marks, spellings of names are actionable. We know a cheque or a promissory note may be repudiated on the ground of the signature having a letter too many or a letter short. Some faddists in compiling the lists of graduates of the Calcutta University have foisted in DL. for LL.D.; they might as well use the word Benedict for Bachelors, and Married Maids for married ladies. By the way, how do the purists reconcile their objection to using Latin terms in the case of M. D.? They are not the legitimate initials of "Doctor in Medicine." They may mean "mad Doctor" or "Fifteen hundred" or other very incongruous things quite as unidiomatic in English as D. L. The fact is, the initials have become crystallized as titles by usage, and their meanings are, as we said, quite different from what they radically signify. As trade-marks, they have a value of their own, and as LL.D. is wellknown and has a dictionary meaning quite its own, it would be or amount to tampering with the value of the term to replace it by D. L. It has a market value of its own which people cannot realise under the form of D.L., and those who have hitherto appeared before the public under one name, would feel injured by being forced to assume another name, and there will be no justification in our overhauling our Charter for the sake of such carping criticism. The case is different in regard to constitutional changes such as Mr. Bose advocates, but the text of that gentleman is not before us just now, and we reserve that for consideration on a future occasion.

THE rich people of the Punjab do not feel disposed to contribute large sums of money in aid of Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries of the province. Last year only Rs. 7,000 could be obtained from them. This has been stigmatised as a 'reproach' to the province. It is said that the smallness of the contributions indicates 'general apathy' of the people. We are not quite prepared to endorse this opinion. The wealthy classes are not 'apathetic' to the granting of medical relief, but they feel it to be utterly impossible to meet all the demands which are made on them for public purposes. Government expects them to come forward and pay largely for every public object which is put before them. In a large community there are not more than half a dozen men who have the means of paying subscriptions for the charitable objects which are brought to their notice. But even the wealth of *Kuvera* would be exhausted if they are made to contribute for all the public objects of the day. The fact is, people are tired of paying subscriptions. Our remarks apply not only to Hospitals and Dispensaries, but to other objects of public charity also in the country. Subscriptions now are felt to be an oppressive tax, and those who have no personal object to gain try to avoid them. Honors and titles may for a time attract them, but the interest which is thus artificially created loses its weight so soon as they are conferred. It is necessary now to think of something else to draw out the wealthy classes.

IT is satisfactory to learn that Mr. Dadabhai's friends in England are making strenuous efforts to have him returned to Parliament. At a recent meeting of the Central Finsbury Liberal and Radical Association the following resolution was adopted:—"That the Executive Committee, recommend to the Council as Parliamentary candidate for the Central Division of Finsbury the Hon. Dadabhoi Nowroji, who being in a position to devote his whole time and attention to the service of the constituency, and representing the great cause of 250 millions of our fellow-subjects, is in the opinion of the Executive Committee the most eligible candidate, and likely to regain the seat for the Liberal and Radical party. The Executive Committee further recommend Mr. Nowroji to the Council because of his well-known views in favour of Home Rule and his adhesion to the London programme."

LOCAL.

THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, 30TH APRIL, 1890.

The Thirty-Eighth Annual General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held on Wednesday, the 30th April, in the Association rooms, in British Indian Street. Over 30 members were present among whom were the following:—Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna Bahadur, K. C. I. E.; Raja Rajendralala Mitra, C. I. E.; Raja Durga Churn Law, C. I. E.; Raja Peary Mohun Mukerjee, C. S. I.; Babus Sham Churn Law; Issur Chunder Mitter; Sew Bux Bogla; Surendranath Pal Chowdhuri; Kunjalal Banerjee; Jogendra Chandra Ghose; Mr. J. Ghosal; Babus Kissorylal Gossain; Charu Chandra Mullick; Sitanath Roy; Baikuntha Nath Basu; Tincowrie Mukerjee; Upendranath Roy; Kali Chandra Roy; Romanath Ghose; Kally Nath Mitter; Ganeh Chunder Chunder; Nobin Chunder Boral; Mr. H.M. Rustomjee; Babus Benode Bihari Mallick; Jadulal Mallick; Nundolal Gossain; Kumar Rameswar Malia, Nundolal Bose, and Rajkumar Sarvadhikari.—(*Secretary.*)

Raja RAJENDRALALA MITRA, the President of the Association, though in a very feeble state of health, presided on the occasion.

The proceedings were opened by the CHAIRMAN calling upon the Secretary to read the annual report.

The SECRETARY read the Annual Report, as follows:—

THE Committee beg to submit the following report on the working of the Association during the year 1889. In consequence of the illness of the President and other causes the usual half-yearly meeting could not be held; this report, therefore, embraces the work done by the Committee from January to December 1889.

The following subjects engaged the attention of the Committee during the year:

1. THE RAILWAY BILL.
2. THE CANTONMENT BILL.
3. PAYMENT OF RENT BY POSTAL MONEY ORDERS.
4. EMBANKMENTS AND THE SURVEY OF THE DAMODAR BED.
5. DRAFT RULES RELATING TO SCHOOLS UNDER DISTRICT BOARDS.
6. CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS BILL.
7. DURGA PUJAH HOLIDAYS.
8. CHOWKIDARI CHAKRAN LANDS.
9. MAFUSIL POLICE.
10. GUARDIANS AND WARDS BILL.
11. ISOLATION OF LEPERS.
12. DISMISSAL OF PUBLIC SERVANTS.
13. UNION COMMITTEES.

RAILWAY BILL.

THE Managing Committee submitted, on the 10th of January 1889, for the consideration of the Select Committee on Railway Bill, a copy of the letter which they had sent to the Railway Conference held at Simla. The letter pointed out the grievances of Railway passengers and suggested certain reforms which are necessary to ensure their comfort and convenience. Some of the suggestions made by the Committee have been adopted. A section has been added providing reserved compartments for females. The compartments so reserved shall be provided with closets. But the Committee regret that no provision could be made regarding the retiring accommodation of third class passengers.

CANTONMENT BILL.

Your Committee, on the 6th of March last, submitted for the consideration of the Select Committee their observations on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Cantonments.

They observed that although they admitted that it was reasonable and desirable that military officers should obtain houses near their lines or places of duty, and that measures should certainly be adopted to provide facilities for securing such accommodation the provisions of the Bill were calculated to secure such an object, in a way that would be confiscatory of the rights of landholders and house-proprietors within the limits of Cantonments. The legal rights to property existing within the limits of Cantonments which have been established by decisions of the highest courts of justice were in a manner swept away for the benefit of military officers. The Committee thought that, if it was deemed absolutely necessary to take up lands and houses for military purpose, some provision should be made for the award of fair compensation to the owners.

Section 22 of the Bill provided that the "land shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, to have been granted by Government, and to have been and to be held, subject to the condition and rules, applicable to Cantonments, at the time when the grant was made," and consequently threw the *onus* of proof on the occupier, however well established his right might be. This *onus*, your Committee suggested, should be on the Government and not on the occupiers.

The rules provided for the forcible occupation of land and buildings against the will of owners or occupiers, the demolition of houses, the fixing of rents, such as would prevent new grantees from building houses within Cantonment limits and compel existing owners to surrender their properties. The owners were liable to all the responsibilities of holding them without being allowed to enjoy all the rights. They would have to pay their full share of rates and taxes for the improvement and sanitation of the Cantonment, but they were not allowed to have any voice in the disposal of the funds raised for the purpose. The house-owner was not allowed even to choose his own tenant. A tenant might be forced on him who would occupy or vacate the house and pay or withhold his rent at his own pleasure and the owner would have no effective remedy. There was also no provision in the Bill by which the Military Department could be made responsible to the ownerfor his rent. Your Committee, therefore, submitted that many of the provisions of the Bill in Chap. V. were one-sided and contrary to established principles of justice. They, therefore, prayed that the Bill be modified in such a way as to protect the rights of owners of properties within Cantonment limits. The original provisions of the Bill have been to a certain extent modified, but some of the most objectionable provisions were allowed to remain when the Bill was passed. It was observed by His Excellency the President when the Bill was passed that the provisions which were deemed objectionable were similar to those which find a place in the English Law relating to Cantonments.

PAYMENT OF RENT BY POSTAL MONEY ORDERS.

Your Committee submitted, on the 22nd of May 1889, to the Secretary, Government of Bengal, Revenue and General Department, their observations relating to the Draft rules for payment of rent by Postal Money Orders, published in the *Government Gazette*.

They suggested certain changes and additions, and proposed that the form of the coupon and acknowledgment should provide for entry of the name of the recorded tenant as well as of the remitter; that the annual rent of the holding should be inserted, where a ryot held more than one holding; and that Bankar and Falkar engagements, should be separately specified. They further suggested that the name of the "mahal" should be put in instead of the name of the "village" only. The particulars about the year for any kist of which a remittance was made, as well as the grand total should be entered in words as well as figures to prevent foul practice. The Committee further observed that there should be a postal Rule to the effect that a searching or inspection fee of annas four paid by the landholder of a village or his agent, should enable him to examine the acknowledgments deposited in the post office for payments made in a village office in one year. The Committee are glad to report that most of their recommendations have been accepted by Government.

EMBANKMENTS AND THE SURVEY OF THE DAMODAR BED.

The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, forwarded with his letter No. 2064 I, dated 20th December 1888, a copy of the Public Works Department Resolution, No. 1980 J., dated 6 idem, for an expression of opinion of your Association on the questions discussed therein. In reply to the above your Committee, on 22nd May last, submitted that as the immediate object of the Resolution was to direct local officers to make a complete survey of the country between the river Damodar on the one side and Darkesar and Roopnarayan on the other, with regard to the discharge of the annual spill of the rivers in those localities, and the measures to be adopted for the escape of the spill water of the "Silae" and the "Damodar," either by the construction of an escape channel, or by the removal of some of the embankments which stood in the way, your Committee could not, the subject being of a technical character, venture to offer suggestions in anticipation of the results of surveys and enquiries which had been ordered. If they were permitted an opportunity of reading the reports when laid before Government, they would then be in a position to offer them. Your Committee, however, observed that too much stress was laid upon the very expensive character of embankment works, but the protection afforded by this expenditure and the value of crops saved annually, were several times greater than the amount spent in maintaining the works. In Bengal, the zemindars spent very large sums in constructing embankments. They were obliged to submit in addition to Revenue payments to an annual payment of a large sum for maintaining embankment works through the officers of the Public Works Department. They were also bound under engagements to pay to the Embankment Department large annual contributions for the maintenance of the works. In the Government Resolution it was not apparent whether any enquiry was made regarding them, and whether the opinions contained in the Resolution were casual expressions of apprehension of costliness. It was impossible to guess what would be the damage that would be entailed upon the people, were scientific opinion in favour of the abandonment of embankments to be acted upon. The Revenue laws gave to zemindars no remission of revenue for damage caused by floods, inundations and deluvion. Humanity and justice, therefore, demanded that every provision should be made to grant adequate compensation for such losses. Your Committee, therefore, suggested that the scope of the enquiry ordered by the Government be extended, and the local officers be called upon to include in their report such estimate as might be possible to make of the probable losses from abandonment of embankments so that some provision might be made for compensation for such losses.

DRAFT RULES RELATING TO SCHOOLS UNDER DISTRICT BOARDS.

Your Committee, referring to the Draft rules published in the *Calcutta Gazette* relating to schools under the control of District Boards, submitted for consideration, on 5th September last, their remarks to the Bengal Government. They urged that the tendency of the rules was to circum-

scribe the liberty of action of the District Boards allowed by the scheme of Local self-Government, and that they should, therefore, be modified. A due share of responsibility as well as of liberty of action should be given to the members of the Boards to induce them to take an active share in the work entrusted to them. If every thing was left to superior orders of the Educational Department, no sense of responsibility would arise, and the experiment of Local self-Government must suffer in consequence. With this view several alterations and changes were suggested, and it is gratifying to the Committee to report that effect has been given to some of their suggestions.

Charitable Endowments Bill.

The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, with his letter, No. 2604 L. R., forwarded a copy of a Bill on Charitable Endowments for an expression of opinion, and your Committee in reply thereto observed that the Bill would remove a defect in the administrative agency, the prejudicial effects of which were widely felt. If an officer exercising functions similar to those of the Official Trustee of charitable funds in the United Kingdom were appointed for this country, the defect would be remedied. The provision empowering the Local Governments to invest public officers with the powers and functions of a corporate office would further remove the inconvenience and legal disqualifications which attended the practice of making charitable endowments in favour of Disrict Collectors and other public officers. Your Committee further observed that it was satisfactory to find that the Bill was confined to charitable endowments only. The Bill has passed into law. Its provisions extend to objects of general utility, but not to objects which relate exclusively to religious teaching or worship.

Durga Puja Holidays.

Your Committee submitted, on the 12th of September last, their representation to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal regarding certain proposed alterations in the rules for the observance of Hindoo holidays during the Durga Puja. They observed that it was their duty to bring to the notice of Government the existence of a wide feeling of uneasiness in the native community regarding the proposed curtailment of the holidays. It was apprehended that there was a tendency for abolishing the holidays altogether. The broad question whether Hindoo holidays were to be granted had been long since admitted in the affirmative. It was meet and proper that the bulk of the Hindoos should be granted every facility for the observance of their religious rites, and Government in the strict observance of its noble policy of religious neutrality had always granted holidays for the purpose, and nothing had happened of late to recommend a different course. The demands of the present altered state of commerce had been met by certain departments of the Custom House being kept open on Hindoo holidays. This was all that was necessary. It would certainly be more convenient to Europeans engaged in commerce to have all Government offices kept open, but it would necessarily require the stoppage of all Hindoo holidays. The question naturally arose whether the Government would tolerate the observance of Hindoo holidays or deprive the Hindoos of all opportunities of attending to their religious rites. Toleration of the religious beliefs in the mixed communities of different sects formed the corner-stone of peace, harmony and good government. The demand for keeping the offices open came from a few hundred European gentlemen, and compliance with it was opposed to religious beliefs of thousands over thousands of those who were affected by it. Those gentlemen submitted themselves most cheerfully to considerable inconvenience, trouble and loss when the Bank and other offices were closed on Christian holidays. Under these circumstances, your Association although reluctant to solicit a privilege which might entail an inevitable loss or inconvenience on others urged only for mutual concessions. If loss, inconvenience and delay arose from concessions to the requirements of religion on the part of natives, they equally arose from concessions to Christians, and toleration implied that the one party should suffer as well as the other, nor was there any material difference in the extent of their demands. The amount of leave wanted for Hindoos on the whole did not exceed what was required by Christians. It was remarked that limited as the number of merchants was it did not represent the whole body of Europeans. A large number of European Bankers and others were in favour of the Puja holidays being strictly observed; and the movement for closure came only from a few members of the European community. Your Committee submitted that the Government in the impartial administration of justice and with due regard to the wants of the millions placed under its sway, ought not to curtail the privileges of the native community, but allow them to enjoy the same as hitherto. The Committee are glad to inform you that instructions were issued by the Government of India for the entire closure of public offices during the last Durga Puja holidays, in accordanec with the practice of previous years.

Chwkidari Chkran Lands.

Your Committee, on the 13th of September 1889, submitted to the Government of Bengal their representation regarding Chowkidari Chakran lands under the provisions of Act VI of 1870.

They observed that great inconvenience was felt both by the publics officers representing Village Committees on the one hand and the landholders on the other, in regulating the services of the Chowkidars after the relations of Chakran-holding chowkidars with landholders and Village Committees were definitely enunciated by the Privy Council in the case of Joykissen Mookerjee *versus* the Collector of East Burdwan. Part II of the Act was enacted to remove the inconvenience by providing for the transfer of Chakran lands to landholders and the payment of half their annual value by the landholders to the village Panchayats. The provisions were put into operation in 1877 in all the districts in which Chowkidari lands were situated, but on the 30th of June 1880, after a number of settlements had been made according to law, Government issued a Circular letter, No. 1055 J. D., whereby it expressed a desire that the Act should be extended to as many villages as possible consistently with the requirements of the Act, and that it should not be put in force where there were already Chowkidars in the enjoyment of Chakran lands not sufficient for their maintenance. These directions had resulted in stopping altogether all transfer of Chakran lands, and the discretion given to Executive officers regarding cases in which the amount and value of such lands were sufficient for the Chowkidars' maintenance, had been found extremely difficult to exercise. Great inconvenience was felt by reason of one man having to serve two masters; disputes not unfrequently arose between public officers and landholders as to the right of appointing and dismissing Chowkidars. Your Committee, therefore, observed that the present state of things should be remedied and full scope given to the provisions of Act VI of 1870.

In reply the Committee have been informed that the matter has been referred to the officer who has been entrusted with an enquiry into the working of the Village Police Act.

Mafusil Police.

Your Committee, on the 23rd of September 1889, submitted to the Government of Bengal for their consideration their representation regarding the very unsatisfactory working of the present system of Mafusil Police and the necessity of its reform.

They observed that representations from time to time were made to their Association relative to the inefficiency of the Police and that the replies they had received from their correspondents fully confirmed the same. The records of inefficiency, corruption, extortion and other malpractices found in the Police Administration Reports, the damaging remarks not unfrequently made of their conduct by the courts of law, and the punishment awarded to the erring members of the body, were proofs strengthening the opinion of the Association.

They further stated that the people, particularly the lower classes—from their ignorance, poverty and well-known timidity, the difficulty and risk of preferring complaints against the Police, and the still greater difficulty of successfully proving even well-founded complaints—not unfrequently felt indisposed to undertake any prosecutions against the police. For fear of making the Policemen their determined enemies, they often kept out of the Courts, so that no information was given to superior officers of hundreds of well-founded cases of ill treatment and corruption by the Police, which, if added to those that were shewn in the official reports, would not only enlarge the official catalogue considerably, but also prove the great unpopularity of the present system. It was a deplorable fact that in 1886 in the Burdwan Division convictions in Courts were only 12·7 per cent. of cases sent up for trial by the Police. It was easy to imagine how miserable and helpless was the condition of the poor people in outlying districts, when in spite of the progress of education, the existence of a powerful bar and the vigilance of public opinion so much as 87 per cent. of Police cases were found to be false in one of the most advanced Divisions of the province. It was true the very nature of the functions of the police was naturally viewed by the people with some degree of disfavour, but it could not be denied that amidst the march of progress and reform in other branches of the administration grave defects existed in the constitution and working of the Mafussil Police. No words could properly express the defects of the present system of police and its working. It was not only wholly disliked by the people of all classes, but in many instances even the courts viewed the work of the police with a considerable degree of suspicion. The present system had been in existence for a period of 28 years, and the country had had ample opportunities during this long period of correctly judging its merits and demerits and forming an unbiased opinion as to its suitability to the circumstances of the country. Your Committee, however, did not suggest any reforms at present, but prayed for an enquiry into the working of the present system. The present law (Act V of 1865) was organized on the model of the Irish constubulary force, after a long and anxious enquiry into the working of the old system, which it superseded, and that system was also the result of the deliberations of the well-known Police Commission of 1837.

The Government of Bengal in their letter, No. 72, $\frac{R}{2}$, dated 3rd December 1889, replied that the whole question was to be soon dealt with and the memorial of the Association would receive their full consideration.

Guardians and Words Bill.

The Government of Bengal with their letter, No. J. 15 $\frac{A}{2}$ 4, forwarded on the 6th of October 1889, a copy of the Guardians and Wards Bill for an expression of opinion of the Association. Your Committee in reply thereto, submitted their observations on the 31st of October last. They stated that no *de-facto* guardian should be compelled to place himself under the control and supervision of the Court, except in those cases in which the guardian voluntarily applied for it. A person who became the guardian of a minor and who was appointed a guardian by a Will or other instrument was ordinarily the best person who could be appointed to the office, although the considerations which governed the selection or appointment might not be appreciated by the outside public. The Courts which exercised similar jurisdiction as the Court of Chancery, could give relief on mere application of a relative or friend of the minor in cases of misconduct and gross neglect of the guardian, while the immunity which a guardian whose title had been declared by Court enjoyed as regards acts done by him with the permission of the Court was a sufficient inducement for a *de-facto* guardian to place himself under the control of the Court whenever necessary. The Hon'ble Mr. Ilbert also said in Council on the 19th March 1886:—"The opinion received on these points appear to me to point to the conclusion that it would not be safe or desirable to restrict the powers of uncertificated guardians in the manner proposed by Mr. Melvill, that as a general rule, guardians not appointed or recognised by the Court, should have

such powers as are given to them by the law to which they are subject, and by the instrument, if any, to which they owe their appointment."

Your Committee stated that Section XX of the Bill should be omitted, if the minor be a member of an undivided family. The effect of the proposed provision would be to invest the Court with the power of bringing under its control all properties held by joint Hindoo families. It would open a door for vexatious and harassing applications against the *de-facto* guardian by his enemies. It was doubtful whether any restrictions could be imposed upon a guardian appointed by the Court which would not unduly interfere with the powers of the managing member of the family, and whether the costs of such separate management would not ultimately prove detrimental to the interests of the minor himself. The Committee observed that they had submitted their views on 1st July 1886 on the general provisions of the Bill, and they were glad to find that several of their suggestions had been embodied in the amended Bill. With reference to the points noticed above the Viceroy's Council has, the Committee are glad to say, accepted the suggestions made by them in passing the Bill.

ISOLATION OF LEPERS.

On the 4th of July 1889, the Government of Bengal with their letter, Medical No. $\frac{3C}{1}$ 11, forwarded a copy of a Resolution of the Government of India, together with a draft Bill providing for the isolation of lepers and amelioration of their condition for the opinion of your Committee. Your Committee, on the 31st of October, in reply thereto submitted that the Bill was based on the assumption that the health of the community was affected by lepers being allowed to mix freely in society, and that legal powers were, therefore, needed to enforce their isolation. No reports or other papers were circulated to prove that such isolation was urgently required. The Committee of the British Indian Association were not aware that the disease in question was at all so intensely infectious as to render such isolation necessary. It should first be ascertained whether the disease was really infectious, or communicable by mere touch with a sound body. The bulk of the Medical Profession was opposed to the idea of its being contagious. The Committee obtained a Report from the Secretary of the District Charitable Society who has charge of the Leper Asylum, and they found that none of the 45 officers and attendants who were employed within the last fifteen years in the asylum and had constant association with the patients was affected by the disease. Under such circumstances, it would be highly injudicious to make any provision which would be based on the assumption that the disease was contagious. It would lead to a great injustice if men were deprived of their personal liberty and civil rights on an assumption which at present was not at all established. Reports might not be wanting to shew that mere contact had led to the spread of the disease, but such reports were vague, there being nothing positive to shew that in such cases there had not been some unconscious inoculation. And such being the case, a careful consideration of these factors was necessary before a correct conclusion could be arrived at. Although the Committee were very unwilling to enter into a discussion of professional questions, they had still ventured to show that no legislation should be attempted on the basis of partially adopted theories, and they held that personal liberty and civil rights were sacred things, and should never be meddled with through mere fear of the theory of some persons only. These might be hereafter proved to be false, and the Committee would not advise Government to take any action, which would deprive any section of the community of their personal liberty and means of earning their livelihood. It was very true that lepers were poor miserable wretches, who would be better cared for in a Hospital or a Retreat or an Asylum; but the effect of such isolation upon them could not compensate for the mental depression which would result from a life-long imprisonment. The Committee, therefore, ventured to protest against all compulsory segregation of lepers. They had no objection to segregating the pauper vagrants and persons volunteering to be placed under restriction, as these men were very poor and quite unfit to earn their livelihood, and most of them had no houses or relations to go to. It was really offensive to see leprous vagrants crowding the streets of a town, but that could be easily checked under the municipal law. As for volunteers none would be willing to come to public hospitals, who had prospects of any private support, and no legal provision was needed for those who were willing to do so.

The Bill is still under the consideration of the Select Committee.

DISMISSAL OF PUBLIC SERVICE.

Your Committee, on the 3rd of December last, submitted, for the consideration and orders of the Government of India, their representation regarding the question of dismissal of officers from the public service, with special reference to the case of three Assistant Surgeons—Babus Kali Krishna Bagchee, Protap Chunder Kerr and Asoke Krishna Shaha, of the Bengal Subordinate Medical Service, who were dismissed for wilful disobedience of the orders of the head of the Department.

See Supplement.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—PRE EMINENTLY THE COD LIVER OIL FOR USE IN INDIA, AND IN WARM CLIMATES.—Joseph J. Pope, Esq., late Staff Surgeon, Army, Professor of Hygiene, Birkbeck Institution, London, writes:—"I found during my Indian experience that the worth and character of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil remained unchanged by tropical heat or foreign climate, and it was, from its uniformity of character, particularly adapted for long-continued administration. Further, I have noticed the important fact, that Dr. de Jongh's Cod Liver Oil, besides containing all the active constituents of the remedy, is easily assimilated, without the stomach derangement so frequently following the use of the ordinary Oils. The value of hydro-car-bons in all debilitated states of the system is now becoming thoroughly recognized; and it is, without doubt, from the animal oils and fats, rather than from their vegetable substitutes, that we may hope to derive the surest benefit. The Oil of Dr. de Jongh's places in every one's reach a reliable and valuable remedy, one that cannot be too widely recognized. Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consignees Ansar, Harford and Co 210, High Holborn, London.

MR. ROBERT HOTZ of Simla, photographer by appointment to His Excellency the most Honorable the Marquess of Lansdowne Viceroy and Governor-General of India, 13-5 Government Place, East, Calcutta.

Special arrangements made for Zenana ladies.

Inspection of Specimen invited. 23

A MATTER OF VITAL INTEREST.

THE *Hindoo Patriot* calls attention to the havoc that has of late been caused in the ranks of the educated Hindoo community of Bengal by diabetes, and points out that the disease is on the increase.

Diabetes originates from loss of nerve force in the system, and especially in the liver or kidneys. The immediate effect is the dilation of the little blood vessels of the kidneys, the loss of muscular power over them, so there is an involuntary escape of water. These vessels, in short, are paralyzed. The more common symptoms of diabetes, are: great thirst, general emaciation, loss of nerve force, dimness of vision, numbness of the thighs, clammy condition of the mouth, and a flow of urine exceeding the water drunk. If on analysis the urine is sweet, you have sugar diabetes; if not, you have insipid diabetes. The gravity of sugar urine is high, of insipid urine low.

Beyond dietary rules, physicians offer little or no help to the patient suffering from this dread disease. The only medicine in the world that is a positive cure for both forms of diabetes is Warner's "SAFE" Diabetes Cure. It is a remedy which has won its proudest laurels among those whom the schoolmen have pronounced incurable. It is a pure vegitable compound, which seeks out the hidden cause, restores tone and vigour to the nervous system, prevents the undue formation of sugar in the liver, perfects the impaired digestion and aids the proper assimilation of food, and restores to the weakened and paralyzed blood-vessels of the kidneys the muscular power to regulate the separation and flow of urine. When these primary symptoms are removed, the constitutional disorders disappear.

Absolute attention must be given to the diet rules, and regulations which accompany each bottle, and to assure the most effective work, at least one of Warner's "SAFE" Pills must be taken every night during treatment. *Do not neglect the symptoms of this disease a single hour, for recovery is impossible unless prompt measures are taken and the patient does precisely what the peculiarities of the disease demand.* That diabetes can be cured by this great remedy, thousands of testimonials like the following amply confirm:—

"Camp Arantanji, India, April 16th, 1889.—I am glad to inform you that the quantity of urine passed by my clerk since taking Warner's 'SAFE' Diabetes Cure is very much decreased. The quantity of water passed has lessened considerably, and a test shows that it contains but little sugar.—(Signed) J Bond, Sub-Assistant No. 1, Mt. Arantanji."

Warner's "SAFE" Diabetes Cure can be had of all chemists and at the bazaars, or of Ballantine and Sons, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras; price 4s. 6d per bottle.

Extract.

SHIFTING THE BASES OF BRITISH RULE IN INDIA

LORD CROSS'S PERILOUS POLICY AND GRAVE DELUSION.

(*India.*)

The Secretary of State for India is, apparently, the victim of a misconception so serious and of so perilous a character that the sooner the misconception is removed the better alike for himself and for India. In the debate on the second reading of the (official) India Councils' Bill, (we quote the *Times* report), he said:—

"There could be no doubt that the intelligence, the experience, and the knowledge of vast numbers of the natives of India would be of inestimable value to the Government, and that it would be very difficult for us to continue to hold our present position in that country unless we availed ourselves of their services when we

needed them. (Hear, hear.) But he would ask, had we not already taken very considerable steps in that direction? It could not be disputed that we had done so in appointing local legislative councils and other bodies on which natives were nominated to sit, which showed that we were always ready to avail ourselves of their experience and knowledge. Acting upon the reports of the commission he had taken a further step, and had practically thrown open to the natives a large number of offices, while by raising the limit of age for passing examination from 19 to 23, a great deal had been done to enable them to take advantage of the privilege afforded them under the Act of coming over here to compete with their British fellow-subjects for certain Indian appointments. All this showed that her Majesty's Government had not been backward in availing themselves of the natives of India, and he maintained that by this Bill they had taken a further and a long step in the same direction."

It would seem from the above remarks, and especially from the illustration which Lord Cross employs, that he is of opinion that his orders on the report of the Public Service Commission have given satisfaction in India. He never was more deceived in his life. So far from this being the case, it is not too much to assert that so grievously unfair are those orders that they have done serious, almost irreparable mischief, and have distinctly weakened British authority in the Empire. Another despatch like the Secretary of State's on the Public Service question would be a real danger." Thus speaks a competent authority. When a Verbatim report of the Congress proceedings at Bombay reaches Lord Cross he will, probably, be startled at the indignant and even vehement way in which his orders are criticized and condemned by one of the Commissioners themselves. Mr. Salem Ramaswamy Mudiyar, the Commissioner in question, is no revolutionist; he is the quietest-the most law abiding, of men. When he visited England in 1885, as a delegate from his people, all who heard his speeches marvelled at his moderation. Yet it is he who says of the one great boon, the raising of the age of candidates, to which Lord Cross refers in his speech, "It was more in deference to that opinion [the opinion of the officials of the Local Governments] than from any wish to grant any concession to the natives, that the age was again raised" It is, let it be marked, one of Lord Cross's own Commissioners who says:—

1. "The net result of what the Secretary has done is to place us in a *worse position* than we occupied when the Public Service Commission was appointed."

2 "The disgraceful way in which the Statutory Civil Servants have been treated.'

3. "In many other respects the Secretary of State has deliberately placed us in a worse position than we occupied before."

4. "As regards appointments made in India, there is no fair play."

These expressions are but samples of what is said by those who know the subjects thoroughly, and who are able to realise what has been done. Mr Salem Ramaswamy's indictment is only too fully justified by the facts The Commission was appointed to provide "higher and more extensive employment" for Indians in the Public Service; so far from doing what it was told to do, it has shut the door against higher employment and has reduced the number of offices already secured by statute to the Indian people This is bad enough, but it is not the worst.

The grave charge we bring against Lord wross is that he is shifting the bases of British rule in India. It would be a crime on our part, knowing the state of feeling in India as we do, if we did not draw attention to this most important matter. The debasement of a nation's currency has never been considered a wrong The debasement of a Sovereign's, or a nation's honour is a far more grievous wrong. Nevertheless, Lord Cross has done this far more grievous wrong in two instances, the more important of which, perhaps, is in connection with the Public Service, and the only one with which we will deal now. Until Lord Cross introduced another standard, all English statesmen who have connected, however remotely, with India, have declared that their policy, that the nation's policy was "*Justice* to India." There may, in fact, have been departures from this policy, owing to this or that circumstance, but the guiding aim was justice. The Duke of Argyll put this most emphatically when, in 1869, in the House of Lords he said:—"It may be asked how far this provision is consistent with the measures adopted by Parliament for securing efficiency in that service; *but there is a previous and, in my opinion, a much more important, question which I trust will be considered*—How far this provision is essential to enable us to perform our duties and fulfil our pledges and professions towards the people of India." Lord Cross has dethroned Justice, has cast down Respect for Pledges and Promises, and in their place has set Expediency on a pedestal. Instead of the Duke of Agyll's noble assertion of fair play, let the consequences be what they may, Lord Cross has adopted for the Public Service the sophism, "securing candidates trained in the highest and best form of English education." Does this involve what Lord Lytton called "cheating" the Indian people, and choosing "the least straightforward course"? Does it mean the dragging of British honour and Britain's plighted word through the mire? It means both. Well might an experienced Anglo-Indian write a few weeks ago, "Another despatch like the Secretary of State's on the Public Service question would be a real danger."

It is certain that Lord Cross has not realised all the grave and perilous issues of the policy he is pursuing. He indeed, personally, is little to blame. Where the blame lies is in the un-English secrecy with which the affairs of the Empire in the India Office are conducted. The secrecy and irresponsibility of the Secretary of State's Council will, if they are not speedily "mended or ended," be productive of the most serious mischief. Already they have worked gross injustice. Men, even the men of India, do not submit to injustice, without at least a protest, for ever. If the affairs of India were conducted with the healthy openness with which Colonial affairs are conducted, such a removal of the foundations of our rule in India from the bed-rock of Justice to the shifting quicksands of Expediency would not be possible. All unknown to himself, the commonest charity compels us to think, Lord Cross is preparing for his period of rule at the India Office a record in direct contrast to that which stands to the credit of his predecessors, while he is at the same time sowing seeds of irritation and dissatisfaction which will bear a heavy crop of trouble. And this is so, simply because of the baneful system of secrecy and the terror of publicity which reign at the India Office.

A CARD.—AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY is announced in the *Paris Figaro*, of a valuable remedy for nervous debility, physical exhaustion, and kindred complaints. The discovery was made by a Missionary in old Mexico; it saved him from a miserable existence and an early grave. The Rev. Joseph Holmes, Bloomsbury Mansions. Bloomsbury Square, London, W. C., will send the prescription, free of charge, on receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope. Mention this paper,

10

Government Notification

Calcutta Gazette.—*April* 30, 1889.

GENERAL,—Babu Hurrish Chunder Banner jee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector is posted temporarily to Howrah.

Mr. M. E. Bradford, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, 24-Pergannahs, is trasferred to Birbhum, and is appointed to have charge of the Rampur Hat sub-division of that District.

Mr. G. C. Kilby, Deputy Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal affairs, reported his departure from India, on Furlough, on the 9th instant.

Babu Raj Kishore Narayan Sing, Deputy Magistrte and Deputy Collector, on special duty in Gya, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

The following Depnty Magistrates and Deputy Collectors are vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in the districts and sub-division mentioned opposite thire names:—

Babu Nogendra Nath Pal Chowehury, Bankura. Babu Aukhoy Kumar Bose, Noakhali. Babu Mahendra Nath Gupta, Aurungabad, Gya.

Babu Gunga Nath Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, was in charge of the Chandpore sub-division, in the district of Tipperah, from the afternoon of the 5th February to the afternoon of the 5th April 1890. Babu Aukhoy Kumar Sen, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner, Dacca Division, is allowed leave for three weeks, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 28th instant,

Babu Annoda Pershad Ghose, First Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, is promoted temporarily to the second grade of the Subordinate Executive Service, vice Rai Uma Kant Das Bahadur, on deputation.

Babu Ram Churn Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, is promoted temporarily to the third grade of the Subordinate Executive Service, vice Babu Annoda Persad Bose.

JUDICIAL.—Babu Ram Churn Lal, Depaty Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gya, is vested with powers under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Proeedure.

Babu Har Charn Bose is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Burrisal Bench, in the district of Backergunge, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Mr. M. E. Bradford, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Rampur Hat, Birbhum, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class.

Babu Komul Nath Ghosh is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate in the district of Faridpur, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class, and with power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The undermentioned gentlemen are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Independent Bench at Mukshudpur, in the district of Faridpur, and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class—

Babu Gour Chandra Ghosh. Chowdury Anwaruddin Khan. Babu Upendra Chandra Sen.

Babu Nobin Chunder Gangooly, Subordinate Judge, Tipperah, is allowed leave for one month, viz, eleven days under article 309 and the remaining period under article, 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Jadu Nath Ghosh, Munsif of Tipperah, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of that district, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Nobin Chunder Gangooly, or until further orders.

Babu Chandra Kumar Roy, Munsif of Phulbari, in the district of Dinajpur, on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif in Chota Nagpur, to be ordinarily stationed at Chattra.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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A Dividend of 3 per cent. for the half year ending 31st December 1889 has this day been declared, payable on and after the 30th instant on presentation of scrip.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT THE FIFTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE ORIENTAL GOVERNMENT SECURITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at the Registered Offices of the Company, Albert Building, on WEDNESDAY, the 30th April 1890, at 3 P. M.

(1) To receive Directors' and Auditors' Reports for year ending 31st December 1889.

(2) To elect a Director and Auditors.

(3) To declare a Dividend.

(4) To submit Consulting Actuary's Valuation Report on the Assets and Liabilities of the Company, to 31st December 1888.

(5) To transact any other Business which may be brought before the Meeting by the Chairman.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

D. McLAUCHLAN SLATER, F. I. A.,

Manager and Actuary.

ALBERT BUILDING,
Bombay, 31st March 1890. 279

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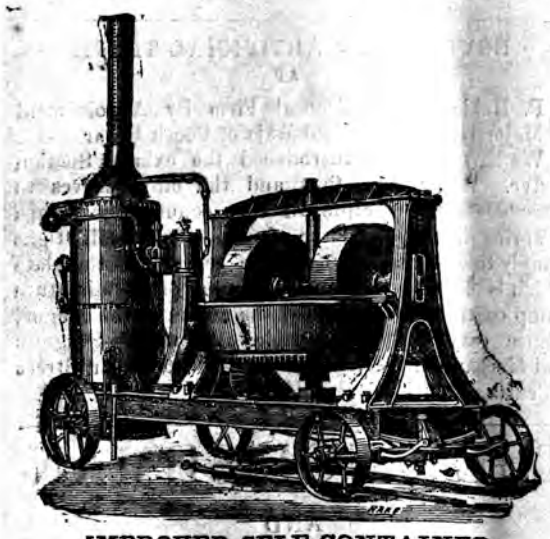

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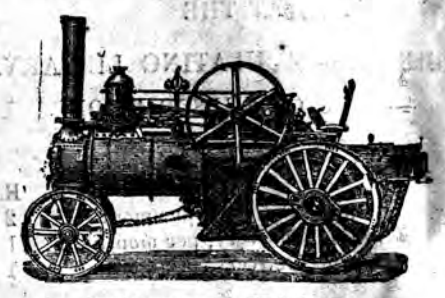

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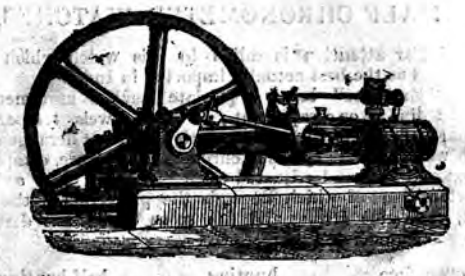

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LOCAL.

THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL-GENERAL MEETING.

(Continued from page 213.)

Your Committee observed that since the Hon'ble the Court of Directors complained in their celebrated despatch of 6th August 1881, that native officers of Government were frequently dismissed from their situations, not for proved delinquency or any tangible matter of substantial charge, but in accordance with opinions of their immediate superiors taken up against them some times hastily, the tenure of office of native public servants had received a constitutional stability which was beneficial in its effects alike to the Government and the members of the Service. Government Resolution, dated 29th July 1879, warned the Heads of Departments not to dismiss officers upon light grounds and provided that a dismissed servant should exercise his right of appeal and that the charge against him, his defence and the order thereon should be reduced to writing. In November 1883, the Government of India further circulated to the different local Governments a Resolution of the Government of Bombay, dated 16th October 1883, and pointed out that not only should the charges brought against an official be clearly recorded but "the motives which were supposed to have influenced him," should be also considered. It was therein laid down that no public officer, unless he was found guilty of "fraud and dishonesty," "continued and wilful negligence," or an offence involving moral turpitude should suffer the extreme punishment of dismissal. The Committee ventured to submit that too much care could not be taken in giving practical effect to the noble policy enunciated above, and that they felt it their duty to submit for the consideration of Government any case in which that policy had been deviated from. They, therefore, solicited the attention of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council to the case of the three Assistant Surgeons who had been lately dismissed. The Committee did not desire to justify or even to extenuate the offence of wilful disobedience of the orders of a superior authority. The very machinery of administration would be stopped, if a subordinate officer were to act upon his own view of a question, in opposition to the views of the head of his Department. The case of the three Assistant Surgeons was not, however, one of wilful disobedience. They volunteered to undergo the required examination, in order to get promotion to a higher grade, and in the opinion of a regularly constituted Board of Examiners they passed it. When the Inspector General of Hospitals questioned their honesty in the examination-room and desired to examine them himself, they represented to him through one of their number that if the examination were permissible under the rules, and if it were intended to be supplementary to that already held, they were willing to undergo it, only they wished that it should be declared that it was not in consequence of any suspicion of the fairness of the preceding examination. The Assistant Surgeons heard nothing in reply until they received the intimation from the Inspector General of their dismissal. What your Committee submitted was that the Assistant Surgeons not having been told with reference to their representation that they should have in any case to pass the examination, there was what seemed a most material defect in the elements which would constitute wilful disobedience of authority. This would have been cleared had they been called upon to submit a defence to the charge of wilful disobedience. In this case the procedure as to written charge and written defence, on which both the Government and the Hon'ble the Court of Directors laid so much stress, was not observed. Under such circumstances, the Committee prayed that justice might be done to the case of the unfortunate Assistant Surgeons.

The Government of India have informed the Committee in reply that although they fully approved of the general principles enunciated by your Committee in their letter, they were unable to interfere with the orders of the local Government dismissing the three Assistant Surgeons.

Union Committees.

The Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department, in his letter No. C. $\frac{A}{1}$ 14, dated 14th August last, requested your Committee to submit their opinion regarding the subject of "Union Committees." In reply they submitted their observations on the 3rd of December last. They observed that when the scheme of Local Self-Government was first introduced, it was contemplated that Union Committees would be made the units of administration. But when the Bill was considered in Council it was rightly held that the District Board of each District and not the Union Committee should be the unit of administration, as the latter represented too small a section of the community to have a control over all public institutions in which the whole District was interested. The scheme being put into practice it was found that the materials for forming Union Committees by some sort of electioneering process were altogether wanting. The experience of the last few years have further shewn that neither of these District nor the suSb-ivisional Boards carried the principle of popular representation beyond a very limited sphere, and that unless Village or Union Committees were established there could be no scope for the full operation of the scheme.

There was no prospect for many years yet of forming Union Committees by extending to Village Committees the right of electing their members; but your Committee thought that if proper care were taken by District officers in ascertaining the opinions and feelings of the people a good selection might be made of members for some sort of Village Committee or Punchayet. This course was adopted in the formation of Chowkidari Punchayets, which had proved very successful. The Committee were, therefore, of opinion that no attempt should be made in the beginning to form Union Committees on the basis of popular election. In course of time the village communities would be far advanced in the management of their own affairs, and would be capable of introducing the elective element in the constitution of the Committees. The inconvenience of investing the Union Committees with the power of raising a separate fund of their own, was indeed great. They should have at their disposal only such funds as might be allowed to them by the Local or Sub-Divisional Boards. They should be under the entire control of the Local Boards, and they should bear the same relation to Local Boards as the latter bear to the District Boards. The District Boards should necessarily have a general power of control over the proceedings of the Union Committees. The Union Committees should have control only over those affairs which solely affected the village or villages comprised in the union. They should have entire control over public tanks, primary schools and pounds; but they should not have power to impose fines or to institute prosecutions, for cases of public nuisance or conservancy offences.

As regards village sanitation the Committee were glad to observe that the Government of Bengal very correctly observed that it should not be thurst upon the people. The result would very likely be harassment and oppression at the hands of the local officials. Among Hindoo communities the religious observances of the people were so intimately connected with sanitary rules that in most places they would be found to be in need of nothing else. They had been for centuries accustomed to habits of cleanliness such as left very little more to be desired. To enforce among them refined rules of modern English sanitation and to burden them with the expenses of carrying them out would be only productive of great harassment and oppression.

The Fifth National Congress.

Your Committee sent the following gentlemen as delegates of the Association to the fifth National Congress, held at Bombay in December last.

1. J. Goshal Esq.,
2. A. Chowdhuri Esq.,
3. Babu Parbati Sunker Roy Chowdhuri.
4. „ Saligram Singh.
5. „ Nundalal Bose.
6. „ Nobin Chunder Bural.
7. Raja Sasisekhareswar Roy.
8. Babu Dvipendra Nath Tagore.

The delegates were instructed not to represent any other Association or constituency, and not to take part in the discussion of other subjects than those relating to the expansion of the Legislative Councils and the extension of the Permanent Settlement, your Association having had no information whether other subjects would be brought forward for discussion. The delegates were, again, pressed this year to move at the fifth Congress a Resolution which was rejected last year to the effect that the members of a Congress were responsible only for the resolutions passed thereat, and that they were in no way responsible for any publication that had been or might be issued by any local standing committees or by individual supporters of the Congress movement. Your Committee regret that your delegates could find no opportunity of placing the Resolution formally before the Subject Committee at Bombay.

New Ordinary Members.

The following gentlemen have been elected by the Managing Committee members of the Association, subject to the usual confirmation under Rule X.

1. Babu Kiran Chunder Chowdhuri, Calcutta.
2. Maharaj Kumar Binaya Krishna Bahadur, of Sobhabazar.
3. Kumar Gopalendra Narain Roy, of Puttia.
4. Babu Narendra Nath Mukerji, of Uttarparah.
5. Rai Suraj Mull Bahadur, of Burrabazar, Calcutta.
6. Babu Ramji Dass Jallan Do
7. „ Ram Chunder Goenka Do

Accounts.

The usual accounts for the year are here with submitted for your consideration:

Abstract Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of the Association for 1889.

The CHAIRMAN next called upon the Secretary to read a letter that had been received bearing upon the proceedings.

The SECRETARY: This is a letter from Babu Akhil Chandra Ray, zemindar of Narail:—

Sir,—In reply to yours, dated the 7th April last, I beg to inform you that I regret extremely that circumstances render it impossible for me to attend the annual meeting of the British Indian Association. But I have a few suggestions to make, which I hope you will be good enough to lay before the meeting:—

(1) I consider it necessary for the Committee to place a copy of its draft annual report in the hands of the members of the Association so as to enable them fully to appreciate the importance of the work done throughout the year, and to emphasise upon it duly at the annual meeting. Sufficient justice cannot be done by its being read at the annual meeting and commented upon then and there. I hope the Association will find it possible to circulate its draft Report among the members a few days before the date of the annual meeting of the Association.

(2.) As regards the appointment of office-bearers, as frequent changes of office-bearers are calculated to hinder the work of the Association I propose that the office-bearers of the past year do continue in office of the next year as well.

(3.) As you have not done me the kindness to let me know the nature of the amendments you propose to Rules 12, 55, or 56, I am precluded from offering any remarks in regard to them. I consider, however, that as it is only gentlemen of rank and position that are elected members of the Association, Rule 12 ought to be modified so as to do away with the shabby rule of expulsion from the list of members for non-payment of the quarterly dues.

The proposed object may be secured by omitting all the words, following "he shall be apprized by letter," and adding "he shall, however, cease to be a member of the Association, should he fail to pay up his dues six months after the lapse of the year for which the subscription has been due by him."

I think you might do away with the rule fixing the time of payment at all. It is an insult to strike off the names of the members who fail to pay their subscriptions in due time. They are all gentlemen of rank and position and they can give whenever they please: that is certain, and that is why I suggest you should do away with the Rule of fixing time of payment at all, because they will endeavour of themselves to do their duty by paying their dues.

I beg you will be so kind as to make these suggestions at the meeting.

I have the honor to be, Sir, yours faithfully,

AKHIL CHANDRA RAY,
Zemindar, Narail.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE PAST YEAR.

The CHAIRMAN then said: Gentlemen,—When this time last year you did me the honour of electing me your Chairman, I never expected to survive the year. Rather, it was my conviction that I would not have the privilege and pleasure of uniting with you and presiding at the closing meeting of my term. Providence has, it is true, spared me to come here to-day; but I have come here only to confess that as your President I have been a failure. You had scarcely done me the honour of assigning your chief office to me when my health completely broke down, and for nearly the whole of the year your business—which should have been directed by me—has had to go on under the fostering care of the Hon'ble Raja Durga Churn Law. But, gentlemen, although I must own that I have failed to do that for which I was appointed, I am happy to be able to assure you that your business has not suffered, rather it has been performed for me in a more efficient manner than I could have done it. My friend Raja Durga Churn Law has not let the grass grow under him. The report in your hands shows how varied and onerous have been the duties which he has performed for you, and how ably he has directed them. His energy, his aptitude for business, his ability, and his influence have enabled him to work for you far more effectually than I could have done, and your grateful thanks are due to him. For myself I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of publicly expressing my deep obligations to him. As moneyed men it will be interesting for you to know that he has been able to reduce your expenses and to show you a clear saving of Rs 2,000. which has been duly invested. Without meaning any offence I may say that saving funds is not extraordinary work for Raja Durga Churn Law, but we are not the less thankful for it. True, the amount saved was not large, but as a saving it should be gratefully accepted. The amount would have been larger but for the losses occasioned by the dishonesty of subordinates. Suffering as I am from the effects of long illness, it is indeed a painful task for me to address you, and besides the weakness and other conditions of my voice must jar upon your sensitive nerves. But I cannot sit down without referring to one or two of the matters treated of in the report. I shall be as brief as I can, and I must ask your indulgence if I am not quite audible. Your representations to the Government regarding the regulations of the Postal Money-Order System, in so far as they affected small money-orders for payment of rent, were wisely conceived, and as they had for their object the relief of much discomfort felt by the poor ryots, whose cause you champion I am glad to say most of them were accepted by the Government. Our main proposals were that the form ed, the coupon and acknowledgment should provide for entry of the name of the recorded tenant, as well as of the remitter; that the annual rent of the holding should be inserted where a ryot held more than one holding, and that Bankar and Falkar engagements should be separately specified. We further suggested that the name of the "mahal" should be put in instead of the name of the "village" only, and that the particulars about the year for any *kist* of which a remittance was made, as as well as the grand total, should be entered in words as well as in figures to prevent foul practice. We further suggested that there should be a postal rule to the effect that a searching or inspection fee of four annas, paid by the landholder of a village or his agent, should enable him to examine the acknowledgments deposited in the post office for payments made in a village office in one year. All these suggestions have been accepted by Government and the poor ryot has thereby been much benefitted. We have fought their battle, not our own, and we have earned their gratitude.

The next subject upon which I would say a few words is the Wards Bill, which recalls olden days, when I could forcibly express views which were begotten of experience. An attempt was made by Government to deprive the community, by a side wind, of control over minor estates which were legally under their management, and to place every minor estate under the Court of Wards. Our Committee at once took the matter up, and urged that no *de facto* guardian should be compelled to place himself under the control and supervision of the court, except in those cases in which the guardian voluntarily applied for it. A person who became the guardian of a minor, and who was appointed a guardian by a Will or other instrument, was ordinarily the best person who could be appointed to the office, although the considerations which governed the selection or appointment might not be appreciated by the outside public. The courts which exercised similar jurisdiction as the Court of Chancery could give relief on mere application of a relative or friend of the minor in cases of misconduct and gross neglect of the guardian, while the immunity which a guardian whose title had been declared by a court enjoyed as regards acts done by him, with the permission of the court, was a sufficient inducement for a *de facto* guardian to place himself under the control of the Court, whenever necessary. Our Committee stated that section 20 of the Bill should be omitted, if the minor be a member of an undivided family. The effect of the proposed provision would be to invest the court with the power of bringing under its control all properties held by joint Hindoo families. It would open a door for vexatious and harassing applications against the *de facto* guardian by his enemies. It was doubtful whether any restrictions could be imposed upon a guardian appointed by the court which would not unduly interfere with the powers of the managing member of the family, and whether the costs of such separate management would not ultimately prove detrimental to the interests of the minor himself. The Committee observed that they had submitted their views on 1st July 1886 on the general provisions of the Bill, and they were glad to find that several of their suggestions had been embodied in the amended Bill. Our further suggestions were accepted by the Viceregal Council and were embodied in the Bill. The only other matter upon which I shall try and address you is one in which I take much interest. I refer to the proposals of Government for the isolation of lepers. I have carefully studied the subject of leprosy for very many years now, and I boldly assert, and dare to challenge contradiction, when I say that leprosy is not infectious like small-pox or other diseases I could name. I admit it is a loathsome disease—a very loathsome disease—but I tell you that it is not by any means infectious. Had it been so, Calcutta would to-day have had a leper population which could be counted by thousands. You know or have heard how assiduously Indian wives serve husbands afflicted by this awful disease, each supplying the place of a servant to a leper, instead of one for every forty lepers as Captain Haye's letter shows us. They wash them and tend on them, and though some have done this for years and years, no signs of leprosy have appeared on the patient dutiful wives. Why then should lepers who have the means to provide themselves with care and medical treatment at home be compelled to find shelter in a leper asylum? As soon as the Government Bill for the isolation of lepers was introduced our Committee pointed out that the Bill was based on the assumption that the health of the community was affected by lepers being allowed to mix freely in society, and that legal powers were, therefore, needed to enforce their isolation. No reports or other papers were circulated to prove that such isolation was urgently or at all required. The Committee of the British Indian Association were not aware that the disease in question was at all so intensely infectious as to render such isolation necessary. It should first be ascertained whether the disease was really infectious, or communicable by mere touch with a sound body. The bulk of the medical profession was opposed to the idea of its being contagious. The Committee obtained a Report from the Secretary of the District Charitable Society, who has charge of the Leper Asylum, and they found that none of the 40 officers and attendants who were employed for the last fifteen years in the asylum and had constant association with the patients were affected by the disease. The fact is that the idea of its infectiousness was greatly spread about by the unfortunate death of Father Damien who caught the disease somehow and died. This circumstance was noticed by Royalty, and that gave an adventitious interest to the subject. Under such circumstances, it would be highly injudicious to make any provision which would be based on the assumption that the disease was contagious. It would lead to a great injustice if men were deprived of their personal liberty and civil rights on an assumption which at present was not at all established. Reports might not be wanting to show that mere contact had led to the spread of the disease, but such reports were vague, there being nothing positive to show that in such cases there had not been some unconscious inoculation. And such being the case, a careful consideration of these factors was necessary before a correct conclusion could be arrived at. Although the Committee were very unwilling to enter into a discussion of professional questions, they had still ventured to show that no legislation should be attempted on the basis of partially adopted theories, and they held that personal liberty and civil rights were sacred things, and should never be meddled with through mere fear of the theory of some persons only. These might be hereafter proved to be false, and the Committee would not advise Government to take any action which would deprive any section of the community of their personal liberty and means of earning their livelihood. It was very true that lepers were poor miserable wretches, who would be better cared for in a hospital or a retreat or an asylum; but the effect of such isolation upon them could not compensate for the mental depression which would result from a life-long imprisonment. The Committee, therefore, ventured to protest against all compulsory segregation of lepers. They had no objection to segregating the pauper vagrants and persons volunteering to be placed under restriction, as these men were very poor and quite unfit to earn their livelihood, and most of them had no houses or relations to go to. It is really offensive to see leprous vagrants crowding the streets of a town, but that could be easily checked under the municipal law. As for volunteers, none would be willing to come to public hospitals, who had prospects of any private support, and no legal provision was needed for those who were willing to do so. The Bill is still before the Select Committee of the Viceregal Council, and we are not yet aware how far our suggestions have been acted upon. The first business before you to-day is receive the annual report, and in reference to that the letter which has been read to you suggests that the draft report should be circulated beforehand amongst the members. But that has not been our practice, nor is it, as I understand, the prac

tice of any other Society except Trading and Financial Associations and the like. The report is carefully considered by Committee appointed by yourselves and composed of 40 members and you will not get any one else to give greater or more careful consideration to it than they have given. I think therefore the suggestion is not at all an inviting one. There is another subject to which I must refer before I sit down. The letter which has been read before you to-day also contained a suggestion, that we should do away with the rule fixing the time of payment. But can you for a moment believe that that will facilitate our business? Is it not the experience of most of you here that some of our members, though very loyal, are still in arrears; and they do not pay, notwithstanding the rule. If therefore with a law they do not pay without a law they will never pay—(Laughter and Applause)—and the abolition of that law will mean that the business of this Association will have to be conducted by means of the subscriptions of other men, and it will be unjust to those members who do pay and by whose subscriptions the work is carried on to permit those who do not pay to enjoy all the rights and privileges of members. With these remarks, gentlemen, I lay the report before you.

The Hon. Raja DURGA CHURN LAW: Before you take up the next item of business, Mr. Chairman, permit me to say a few words in reply to the remarks of my distinguished friend Raja Rajendralala Mitra about myself. I fully appreciate the kind expressions which have fallen from him about my work; but I do not think I deserve them. What I have done in his absence was more from a sense of duty than anything else—(Applause)—and for such work I thoroughly disclaim any merit or gratitude. (Applause).

Raja PEARY MOHUN MUKERJEE: Our best thanks are undoubtedly due to the Hon. Raja Durga Churn Law for the great ability and zeal with which he guided our deliberations at our meetings during the year. But I think it will be doing an injustice to our President, Raja Rajendralala Mitra, if I were not to state to members who were not on the Committee that nothing, either important or otherwise, was done by the Association without his knowledge and without the matter having been thoroughly considered by him. All the letters that have gone from the Association to the Government or other public bodies were thoroughly considered by him. One letter—in fact the most ably written letter—that has gone from the Association during the year—I mean the letter on Leper Asylums—was wholly drafted by him. There is not a word in it which is not from his pen. You see therefore that, although he has laboured under great bodily infirmity, his bright intellect is altogether unimpaired (Applause) and—

The CHAIRMAN: I must take exception to the remarks that have fallen. What takes place in Committee is supposed to be strictly secret. (Laughter). Gentlemen, this is the time, if you wish to make any remarks upon the report, to do so. I shall be happy to hear what any gentleman has got to say.

THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT: A SUGGESTION FOR THE FUTURE.

Babu BAIKUNTHA NATH BASU then proposed and Babu SEW BUX BOGLA seconded:—"That the report be received and adopted and the accounts passed as correct."

Babu KALLY NATH MITTER: Sir,—Before you put that resolution to the meeting, I have an objection to take not as regards the report itself but to the manner in which it is presented to us. It seems to me a farce to hand a report to us here on the spot and to expect us duly to consider it. (Applause). I think the report should be circulated amongst the members in sufficient time to enable them to consider it. I do not wish, on this occasion, to disturb the harmony of the meeting by moving an amendment but I think it should be understood that, in future, the report should be circulated beforehand, so that members may have an opportunity of reading it and making suggestions, which it is impossible for them to do on the spur of the moment. I think that is the rule in every public body—that reports are circulated beforehand, so that members might have time to consider them.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that his friend Babu Kally Nath Mitter had taken exception to the report not being presented before, and said that it was impossible to criticize it before reading it. Well, he (the Chairman) quite conceded that it was unreasonable to expect members to criticize in detail the report before they had had time to consider it. But it was not impossible to expect them to read and adopt the report that day. That was the practice in the Municipal Council, of which his friend was deservedly a most prominent and respected member for years and years. The Chairman used to draft the Report and the Committee to adopt it and afterwards it was presented to the meeting when those who were not on the Committee would move its adoption.

Babu KALLY NATH MITTER: But these reports are circulated five or six days beforehand.

The CHAIRMAN: Only to members of Committee and not to the whole body of the Commissioners.

Babu KALLY NATH MITTER: What I said was that everybody should have an opportunity of reading the report before they are called upon to discuss it. I am not taking of members of Committee. It does not matter so much as regards them; they have a right to see the report before it is presented.

The CHAIRMAN did not think that that was the practice with other public bodies. Members of the Committee are one thing and members of the Society are a different thing. The latter do not get the report till it is presented to them. The Chamber of Commerce, for example, does not circulate its reports beforehand for approval. The Asiatic Society, with the proceedings of which, perhaps, he was more familiar than any other Society, did not do so. Their last annual report, for example, reached him many days after the meeting was held, as he was not present at that meeting. But of course, in merely financial Societies and Corporation and Trading Associations, the practice was different. Their reports are submitted beforehand *pro forma*. But as far as the British Indian Association was concerned, the present practice was the one adopted for the last 40 years and he hoped they would insist on having a better reason for the change than that stupid word "impossible" which Napoleon said was not contained in the French Dictionary. There is nothing "impossible" in this world: everything possible except to those who would not take the trouble to keep themselves *au courant* with the affairs of the Association.

Babu JADU LALL MULLICK: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—With reference to the remarks that have fallen from Babu Kally Nath Mitter, I have one thing to say, and that is this. Although I know that the present practice has been the practice of the Association for years past, I think the time has come when that practice should be changed. This, it should be remembered, is only a draft report until it is adopted; and I think that this draft report ought to be circulated beforehand. When we take into consideration the object of the general meeting in appointing a Committee, it is only fair and reasonable to expect that they would desire to make their report on the work of the whole year and that the Association should have an opportunity of discussing that report. Formerly, people did not take as much interest in political matters as they are taking now, and therefore now the whole aspect of affairs has been changed. We have now the pleasure of seeing mass meetings in every mufussil town and their reports published by telegrams in the daily papers in the metropolis. I therefore think we shall not do wrong in considering the suggestion thrown out by Babu Kally Nath Mitter; and it will be a matter for congratulation if all the members take an interest in the working of the Committee.

The resolution for the adoption of the report was then put to the meeting and carried *nem. con.*

VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING OFFICE-BEARERS.

Babu KERONE CHUNDER ROY proposed, and Babu TINCOWRY MUKERJEE seconded, that a vote of thanks be passed to the retiring office-bearers for their services during the past year.

The resolution was put and carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

Babu SURENDRONATH PAL CHOWDHURI proposed and Babu UPENDRO NATH ROY seconded, that the following gentlemen be elected office-bearers for the current year:—*President*, Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, K.C.I.E.; *Vice-Presidents*, Raja Rajendralala Mitra, L. L. D., C. I. E.; Maharaja Sir Lukshmiswara Singh Bahadur, K. C. I. E., of Darbhanga; Raja Peary Mohun Mukerji, C. S. I.; and Babu Shyam Charan Law. *Committee*:—Maharaja Sir Radha Prashad Singh Bahadur, K. C. I. E., of Dumraon; Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, K. C. S. I.; Raja Durga Charan Law, C. I. E., Prince Furok Shah, Raja Baikantha Nath Dey, Kumar Debendra Mallik, Babu Jadu Lall Mullick, Kumar Sarat Chandra Singh, Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose, Mr. H. M. Rustomjee, Babu Kunja Lall Banerjee, Rai Jaiprokash Lall, Babus Dinanath Mallik, Kalinath Mitter, Saligram Singh, Saradindra Mohun Tagore, Bijaya Krishna Mukerji, Nandalal Gossain, Sitanath Roy, Kumar Dinendra Narayan Roy, Babus Damodar Dass, Barman, Gonesh Chunder Chunder, Chandilal Singh, Mr. J. Ghosal, Babus Isur Chunder Mitter, Charu Chunder Mallick, Hari Mohun Bose, Moulvi Fazal-ul-Rab, Babus Nobin Chunder Bural, Shibnarain Mukerji, Abhoy Charan Guha, Maharaj Kumar Binoy Krishna, Kumar Rameswar Malia, Babus Nandalal Bose and Ramanath Ghose.

AMENDMENT OF RULES.

The CHAIRMAN said that last year he gave notice of some amendments in the rules of the Association. The first bye-law which he proposed to amend was No. 12. He proposed to amend that by omitting all the words from "and published" to "as a defaulter." He was as anxious as any one that members should pay their subscriptions, and, though they deservedly brought the penalty on themselves by refusing to do so, still the people of this country did not like the idea of defaulters' names being posted up. Perhaps, they would be surprized to learn that there were gentlemen who had been members of the Association for seven years continuously who had not paid their entrance fee? (Laughter). Could they do without laughing when they heard this? He, for one, could not. What would you think of a man who is seven years in arrears and has not even paid his entrance fee? Would you allow him to continue as a member and enjoy all the rights and privileges of those who do pay? At the same time they should be merciful, and that was the reason which induced him to move his amendment. Now, for a bit of ancient history. The building in which they held their meetings did not belong to them at first. It was built by subscription for the purposes of a public institution. It was arranged that the Association should pay Rs. 10,000 and hold its meeting here. His late lamented friend Babu Prasannakumar Tagore gave on that account Rs. 10,000 on the understanding that the building should be purchased. The building was bought and invested in trustees. Their legal adviser undertook to draw up a trust deed, but he thought that deed could be so improved as to prevent the building passing beyond the control of the Association, and he hoped his learned friend would see his way to giving them a good working trusteeship. To effect this, it was necessary to delete rules 55 and 56. With these remarks he begged to move:—"That the words '*and published*' to '*as a defaulter*' in Rule No. 12 be omitted and that rules 55 and 56 be omitted."

Babu ISSUR CHUNDER MITTER seconded.

The motion was put and carried *nem. con.*

At this stage, Raja Rajendralala Mitra withdrew, and the new President, Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna Bahadur, took the chair.

THE NEW PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Maharajah Sir NARENDRA KRISHNA then rose to address the meeting and was received with much applause. He said:—Gentlemen,—I beg to draw the attention of Government to certain sections of the Cantonment Bill which provide for the residence of military officers within its limits. In some cases they find it difficult to rent houses existing there and occupied by private individuals, as by the military rules they are required to reside in the lines. Government should purchase houses and lands belonging to persons situated in a cantonment, needed for the use of military men, and it should not on any pretext occupy them without paying a fair price when their rights to such houses and lands have been established in courts of law. A long-continued possession in the absence of legal documents should entitle the owner to let them to tenants on their own terms, instead of allowing the cantonment authorities to exercise their discretion in the matter, which I think would be interfering with the rights of private parties. With regard to the Charitable Endowment Bill, Government has wisely resolved to entrust the moneys bequeathed by persons for charitable purposes to a treasurer to be appointed under the provisions of the Bill for the management of this fund, who will keep account of moneys received and expended on that object, as it is not legal for the collectors and other officers of Government to disburse such sums without the enactment of a law now proposed by Government. I regret to observe that the Chamber of Commerce has submitted a representation to Government proposing the reduction of the Durga Pujah holidays from twelve to four days. Our experienced Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Steuart Bayley, has explained to the Chamber that its request for their curtailment does not meet with the approval of the entire English mercantile community. Much uneasiness prevails in the minds of the natives about this proposal of the Chamber, as no possible inconvenience can be felt by the merchants when a part of the Custom House is kept open on the Pujah days for the transaction of business, as ships arriving in this port obtain passes to discharge their cargoes during these days. Natives living at a distance from Calcutta proceed to their homes to associate for a few days with their relatives, with whom they jointly observe the religious rites

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in connection with the celebration of the Durga Pujah. Our wise and sympathetic Viceroy, Lord Lansdowne, would not, I am confident, in any way wound their feelings by curtailing the Durga Pujah holidays in accordance with the wishes of a few English merchants. To the honor and good sense of the British merchants in general, I must say that they do not share in the views expressed by a few of their class in this matter. Our just and enlightened Government, I am firmly convinced, never contemplates to interfere even indirectly with the performance of the religious rites of its native subjects. I must congratulate my distinguished and learned friend Raja Rajendralala Mitra on his recovery from his illness, and on being able to take an active part in to-day's proceedings. (Applause). I have to deplore the loss of three of your members, who joined the majority during the past year. Raja Purna Chunder Sing, like his revered father and uncle, was an ornament to and an useful member of our Association. I cordially thank you, gentlemen, for electing me your President (Applause).

The new President then invited any members, who wished to do so, to speak on subjects of public interest.

The Income-Tax.

In response to this request,

Babu Shew Bux Bogla said: Maharajas and Gentlemen,—At our last annual meeting I had the honor of humbly suggesting a few points in regard to the Income Tax, and the mode in which it is levied from the people. My arguments, though not approved by the learned members of this Association, still received sympathy from a majority of middle-class people. I beg leave to raise the same question before you this year and sanguinely trust that you will kindly give your support to it. My arguments, however crude and shapeless they may be, are nevertheless the voice of such people who are intellectually unfit to take up political subjects or discuss State matters. Through your mouth and pen they venture to represent their grievances to the Government and if you do not advocate their cause simply because it is not in harmony with your learned views, I think I am not far wrong in saying that you neglect one of your best duties. Since the introduction of this new system of taxation the Government has indeed been able to better the condition of its Finance and we cannot but congratulate it on its success. Though we groan under the pressure of the Income-tax still we do not say that the sum realized from this source does not make our country secure from foreign attacks. We know we must meet the expenses that may be required for the safety and good government of our country. But when such expenses exceed the amount actually necessary for such purpose it is then that the imposition of any additional tax becomes a source of dissatisfaction and a cause for grumbling to the already over-burdened middle class men of Her Majesty's loyal subjects. The income-tax has apparently become unpopular, and, if it is made permanent, I doubt not it will give a death-blow to the progress of the commerce of this country. Last year the income accruing from this source was 5 per cent. more than what came in the preceding year, and the excess was solely due to the uncommon tact and ingenuity of the clever assessors. I can well assure you, gentlemen, that this excess amount was only the outcome of *zulum*. If you only look at the records of trades and commerce you will find that most of the Calcutta firms had sustained a loss in that year. If this statement of the people be true, how will you account for this enormous gain? It would be no exaggeration to say that the poor Hindustani dealers have only to swell this fund by their blood. Whether they make any profit or not the assessment is enhanced every year and the destiny of these poor people is solely guided by the whims and fancies of the intelligent clerks of the Collector. An objection to the increased assessment is sure to bring dismal results, and when the petitioner returns from the cutchery of the assessor he blesses his stars for having passed through an ordeal. Besides the discipline of the Collector's cutchery is too strict to be borne by any gentleman who has a sense of honor or a rank in society. No Criminal Court presided over by the highest judicial officer has had half the severity of court discipline as is evinced in the assessor's cutchery. Now to be brief, gentlemen, I should say that the irregularity with which the assessment is made every year and the *zulum* of the department are matters for your inquiry and consideration. Many petty firms have been ruined by the unjust assessment. The poor Hindustanis who keep their books in Guzerati or *kaitee* characters suffer most and are generally accused of fraudulent dealings simply because they cannot explain their figures to an assessor who does not know the vernacular of these men. Their inability to explain their grievances in a foreign language and want of means keep these matters secret from the notice of the authorities. The relief that Government has given to the poorer class of its loyal subjects by the exemption of the salt duty has been purchased at the expense of the blood of the middle-class men. As I do not like to detain you longer I shall simply beg leave to finish by saying that I have been requested by my Marwari brethren to represent their grievances to you, and it is now your duty to advocate their cause and take such measures as you think best to guard against undue assessment. (Applause.)

The Bengal Partition Bill.

Babu Surendranath Pal Chowdhuri said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I rise to draw your attention to the correspondence your Committee had entered into with the Secretary to the Government of Bengal regarding Hon. Dr. Rash Behary Ghosh's Partition Bill. It did not meet the approval of the Committee for reasons which are of a sentimental nature. The Bill, though not a perfect one, in my humble opinion, deals with a subject which ought, in the interest of the country, to be brought to the notice of the Legislative Council for consideration. The constitution of our society has undergone a marked change and things which were desired by the people in former days are now becoming difficult of attainment and a source of much trouble to them. Our present society wants the cessation of the family system It is one of the causes tending to the increase of a litigious spirit in the country. Some easy method of partition of landed properties must be legislated for the purpose of restoring peace to the country, and I believe Dr. Rash Behary Ghosh's Partition Bill is on a just basis. I would therefore humbly beg of the Committee of the Association to take up the matter for reconsideration and make suggestions for the improvement of the Bill in a way that would facilitate the partition of landed properties. Gentlemen, with due deference to the august body of the British Indian Association representing the aristocracy of the country, I beg to submit that the old patriarchal and artistocratic system has, as you are all probably aware, undergone a revolution. The constitution of the society mainly depends upon natural interests. The change brought about by the circumstances of the times necessitate a modification of the existing state of things in regard to properties. Gentlemen, changes are necessary; but it behoves us as a reforming body to wish their introduction provided with all necessary safeguards to prevent their terminating in a way prejudicial to our interests. The subject under consideration is of vital importance. It is, gentlemen, a question of properties, next to, in common parlance, the question of life. I would humbly invite you to consider this subject to prevent undue advantage being taken of innocent and willing members by designing participators prone to ruin themselves and their co-sharers.

Extended Jurisdiction of the High Court.

Babu Gonesh Chunder Chunder said: I have to bring to your notice, Mr Chairman and Gentlemen, one matter which is worthy of consideration at this your annual meeting. I shall not, however, detain you with a long speech. The subject to which I wish to draw the attention of this Association during the ensuing year, as worthy of its consideration, is whether or not we shall take steps to have the Original jurisdiction of the High Court extended over the new area which has been added to the Municipal town of Calcutta. It may be supposed that I bring this matter before you from a selfish motive, because I shall be partially benefitted, or at least there will be some prospect of my being benefitted; but I can assure you, gentlemen, that I am actuated by no such motive. You will remember that some time ago,—immediately on the passing of the Calcutta Municipal Act—steps were taken by this Association to obtain the opinion of Counsel as to the power of the Lieutenant-Governor's Council to extend the local limits of the town of Calcutta. The view was then put forward that, under the Charter of the Supreme Court, which was granted by an Act of Parliament, it was doubtful whether any one, except the Governor-General in Council, could at any future time extend the local area of the limits of the Supreme Court. However, we did not get the opinion which we expected to get, and the matter was allowed to drop. Thus our position is this: that we must be content with the state of things which has been brought about and which now exists. The Jurisdiction of the Calcutta Police was some years ago extended over the added area as well as the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Municipality. There is also a slight accession of jurisdiction in the Calcutta Small Cause Court over this added area, so that Municipal appeals from this area, which were formerly heard by the Assessment Committee are now heard by the Calcutta Small Cause Court. You are aware that the present Criminal Procedure Code does not apply to all Calcutta; that the Calcutta Police is guided by this difference; and I think any body who is acquainted with the working of the Calcutta Police and the working of the mafussil Police knows that the Calcutta Police is better managed and better supervised than the mafussil Police; and the powers of a Calcutta Police Officer are much less than the powers which can be exercised by a mafussil Police Officer under the Criminal Procedure Act. Then, gentlemen, there is another thing. People living in the suburban area have to pay the same amount of taxes and have to undertake all the burdens which are imposed on the people of Calcutta. If that be so, why should they not have the advantages which the citizens of Calcutta enjoy? For instance, if a person commits an offence on this side of the Circular Road he is tried by the Presidency Magistrate with an appeal to the High Court. But if the same man commits the very same offence on the other side of the Circular Road, which, for all purposes is within the town of Calcutta, he is tried by the Deputy Magistrate with an appeal to the District Magistrate, then an appeal to the Judge of the 24 Pergunnahs, and ultimately an appeal to the High Court. Then, gentlemen, if the criminal jurisdiction were extended, you will also have the civil jurisdiction extended. I know that in some quarters there is a mistaken notion prevalent that, after all, litigation over small property situated in Calcutta costs a great deal more than litigation in respect of the same property in the mafussil. But I say that is a mistaken notion for this reason. I have myself personal experience of litigation in Calcutta as well as in the mafussil. Of course, I do not mean to say that a question may be raised as to the cost of litigation with regard to the zemindaries. That is a question which I have not considered; but I have had experience with regard to litigation in respect of small properties both in the mafussil and the town of Calcutta. With regard to zemindaries, you will observe this—that, if the Original jurisdiction of the High Court be extended over this added area, it will not interfere with any zemindary property at all, because the added area, I believe, does not include any particular zemindary. Now, gentlemen, I think it will be admitted by every body that the justice we get from the Judges of the High Court is decidedly superior to the justice we may expect to get in any Subordinate Court. Upon that question there cannot be two opinions. Now, if one can obtain justice from the Judges of the High Court, who would like to be subject to the jurisdiction of the Judges of inferior Courts? For instance, if there is a small suit instituted in Sealdah, you have to bring your suit first of all in the Munsif's Court. Then you go to the Judge or Sub-Judge, and then, if there is a point of law, you get your law from the High Court. Now, I have observed that, in contested cases, people living in the mofussil—I mean close to Calcutta—have a mania for taking counsel to the mafussil Court; and the costs of taking counsel to the mofussil Court are decidedly a great deal more than what the services of the same counsel would cost within the jurisdiction of the High Court. To my own personal knowledge, there was the other day a case in the Munsif's Court of Sealdah. There was an appeal from the Munsif's Court to the Judge of the 24 Pergannahs; and both sides, on the hearing of the appeal, took counsel from Calcutta at a cost of Rs. 1,000 per day. This case lasted six days and that meant Rs. 6,000 in feeing counsel only. Now, if that case had been tried in the Original jurisdiction of the High Court, I venture to say that the whole cost would not probably have exceeded Rs. 2,000. Well, gentlemen, all I have to urge upon your consideration is that, if the people in the added area have to bear all the burdens which have been put on the citizens of Calcutta, why should they not have all the advantages too? I beg to move:—"That steps be taken by the Committee of the Association to bring up for consideration the question of the extension of jurisdiction of the original area of the High Court over the area recently added to the local limits of the town of Calcutta."

The Hon. Raja Durga Churn Law seconded.

Babu Kunja Lal Banerjee said that the meeting were probably aware that he had been for some years a Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Well speaking from his experience, he could mention a case, in the Small Cause Court the expenses attendant on which he thought could not exceed Rs. 2; but the decree obtained had to be brought under the High Court and executed with all formalities, and that which he thought would cost only Rs. 2 cost him Rs. 18! This was the luxury which his learned friend sought to put within the reach of the people living in the added area; but in his (the speaker's) opinion a greater misfortune could not befall the people living in the locality referred to than to be brought under the jurisdiction of the High Court.

The motion was then put and carried by a large majority.

The meeting thereupon separated after passing the customary vote of thanks to the Chair.